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No. 658

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS

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WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES

As of publication time, we've learned of the passing of another Disney comics legend, Romano Scarpa. This is indeed sad news, following so closely on the heels of Daniel Branca's death. Egmont editors Byron Erickson and Anna Maria Vind provided this:

"A contemporary of Floyd Gottfredson and Carl Barks, the Italian Scarpa took what they had begun, added creations of his own such as Atomo Bleep-Bleep and Brigitta MacBridge, and crafted a long series of sometimes more complex, oftentimes more suspenseful, definitely more cinematic, and almost always funnier adventures starring both Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck (he never thought it necessary to limit himself to one character group). Much has been written on the thousands of pages he drew, but suffice it to say here that what makes them unique is both Scarpa's impeccable comic timing and the emotion he managed to capture. You don't just read a Scarpa story, you experience it through the characters' eyes.

"Romano Scarpa lived to be 77 years old and continued to draw until just a few months before his death in Fuengirola, Spain, when a long-time illness forced him to lay down his pencil. *Ciao,* Romano. *Ciao,* our teacher. *Ciao,* our friend. You were unique. You mattered."

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Color: Susan Daigle-Leach

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Lettering: Jon Babcock

Front cover art by Carl Barks, color by Susan Daigle-Leach

NEXT ISSUE SHIPS WEEK OF JULY 20TH
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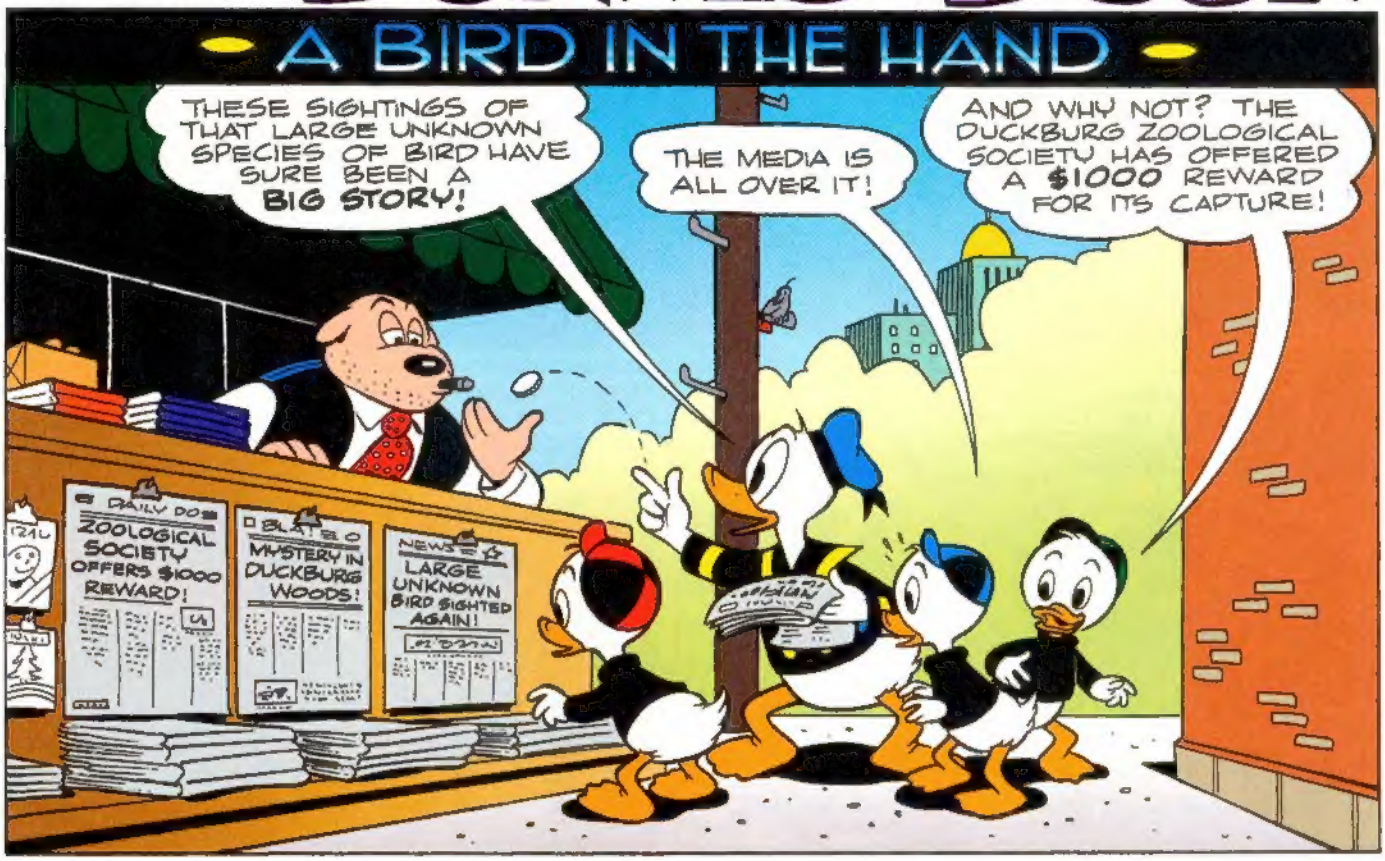
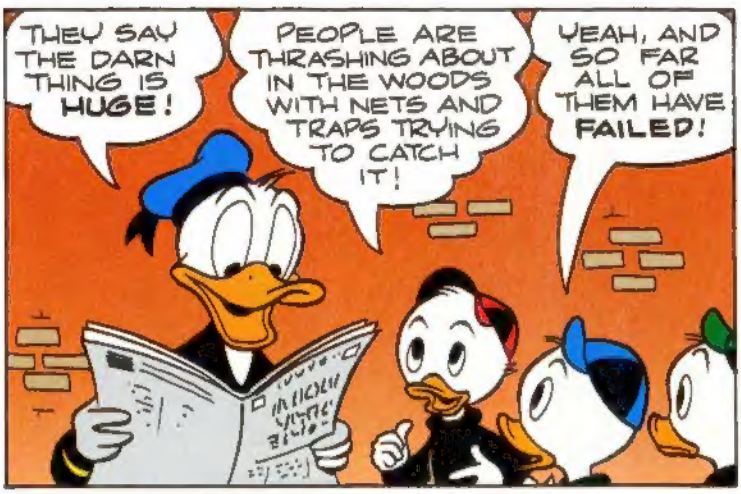
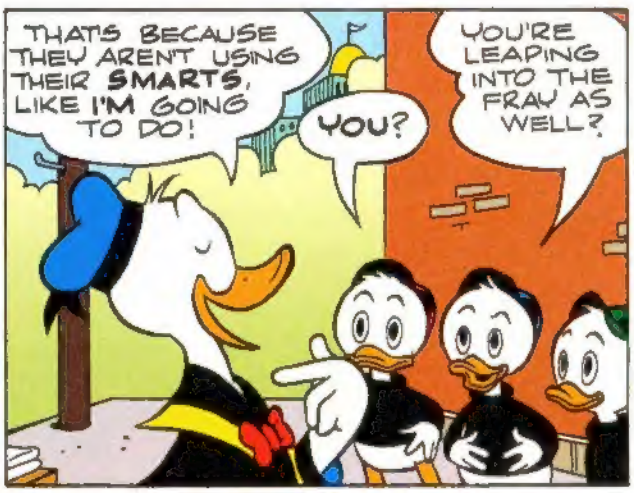
Walt Disney's

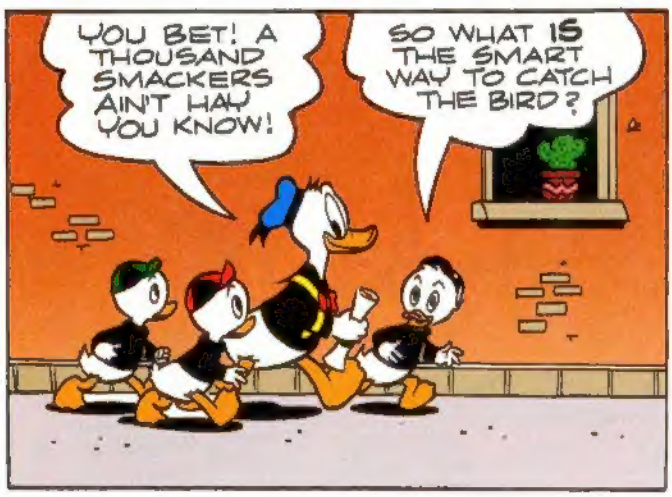
DONALD DUCK

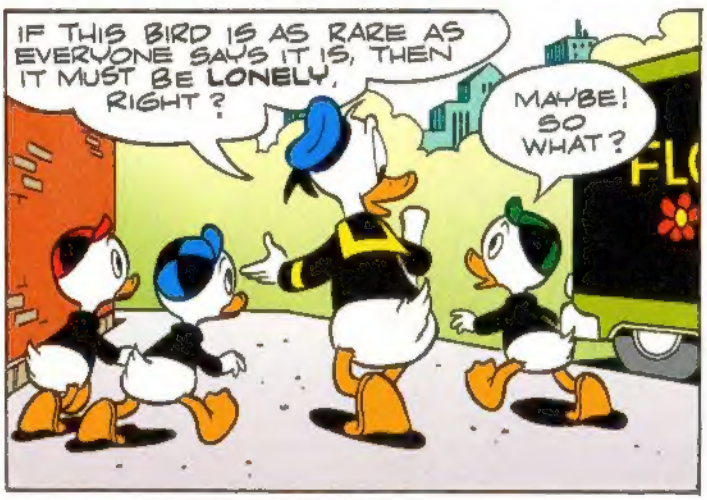
A BIRD IN THE HAND

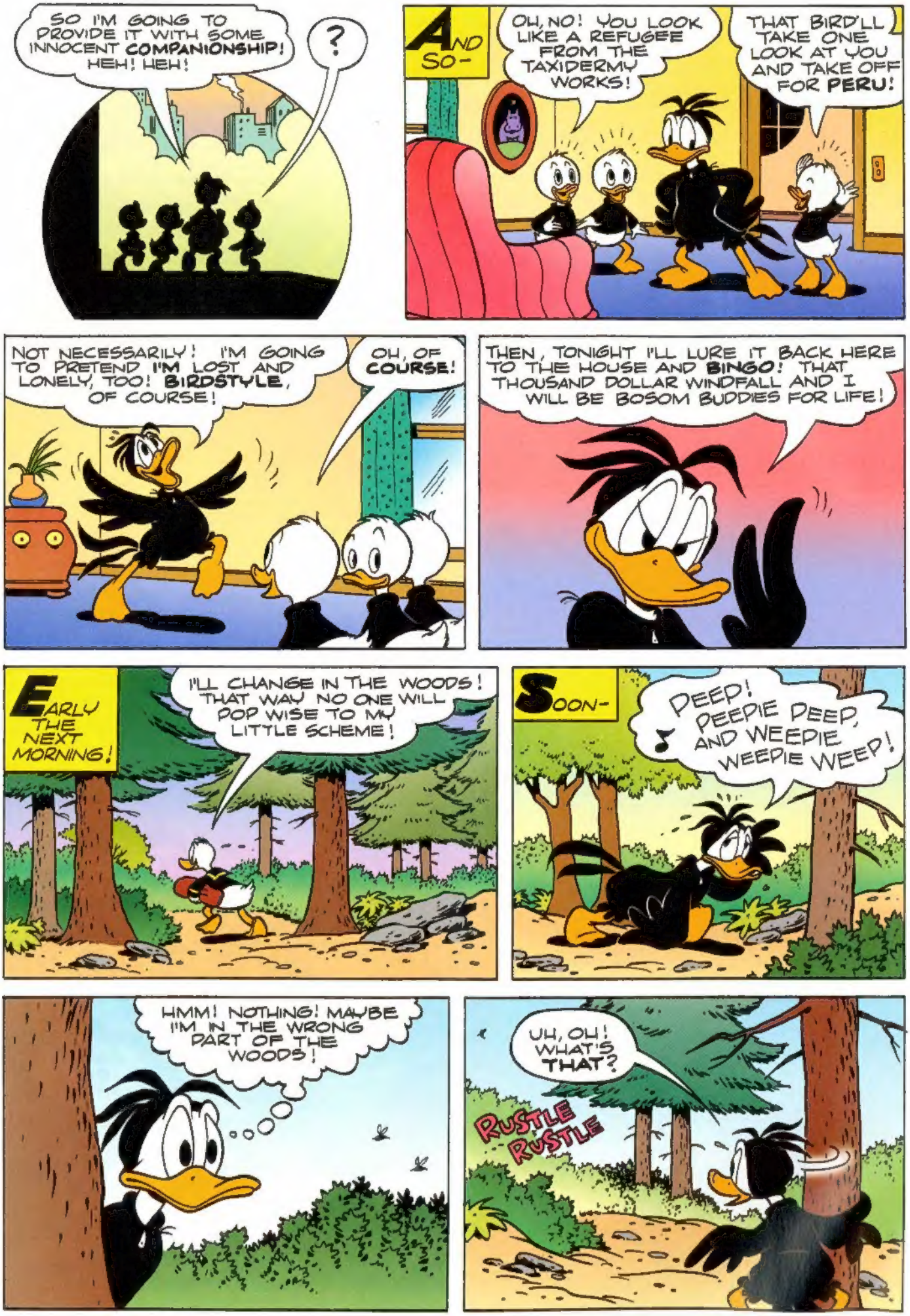

THESE SIGHTINGS OF THAT LARGE UNKNOWN SPECIES OF BIRD HAVE SURE BEEN A BIG STORY!
THE MEDIA IS ALL OVER IT!
AND WHY NOT? THE DUCKBURG ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY HAS OFFERED A $1000 REWARD FOR ITS CAPTURE!
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OFFERS $1000 REWARD!
MYSTERY IN DUCKBURG WOODS!
LARGE UNKNOWN BIRD SIGHTED AGAIN!

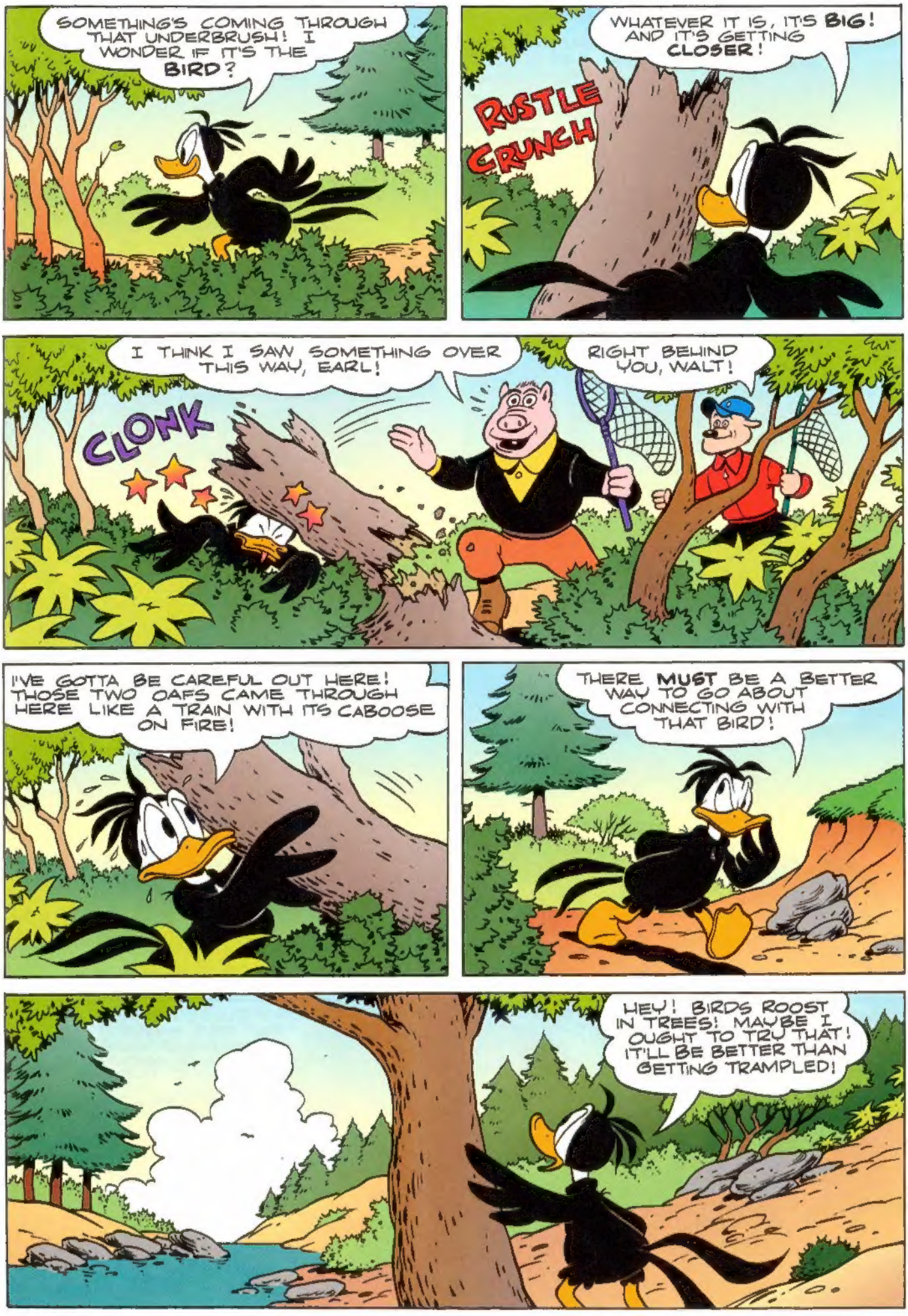

THEY SAY THE DARN THING IS HUGE!
PEOPLE ARE THRASHING ABOUT IN THE WOODS WITH NETS AND TRAPS TRYING TO CATCH IT!
YEAH, AND SO FAR ALL OF THEM HAVE FAILED!





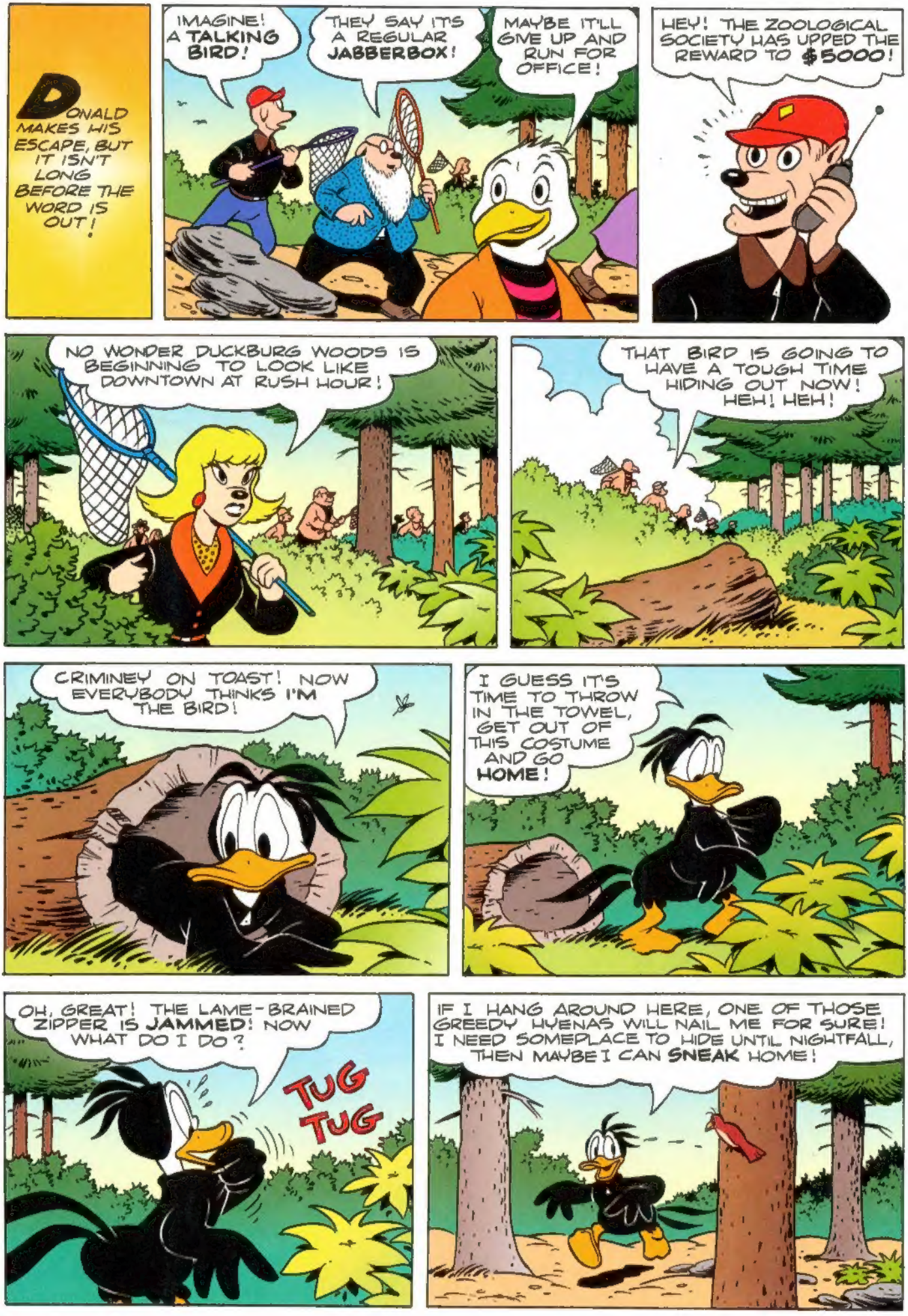


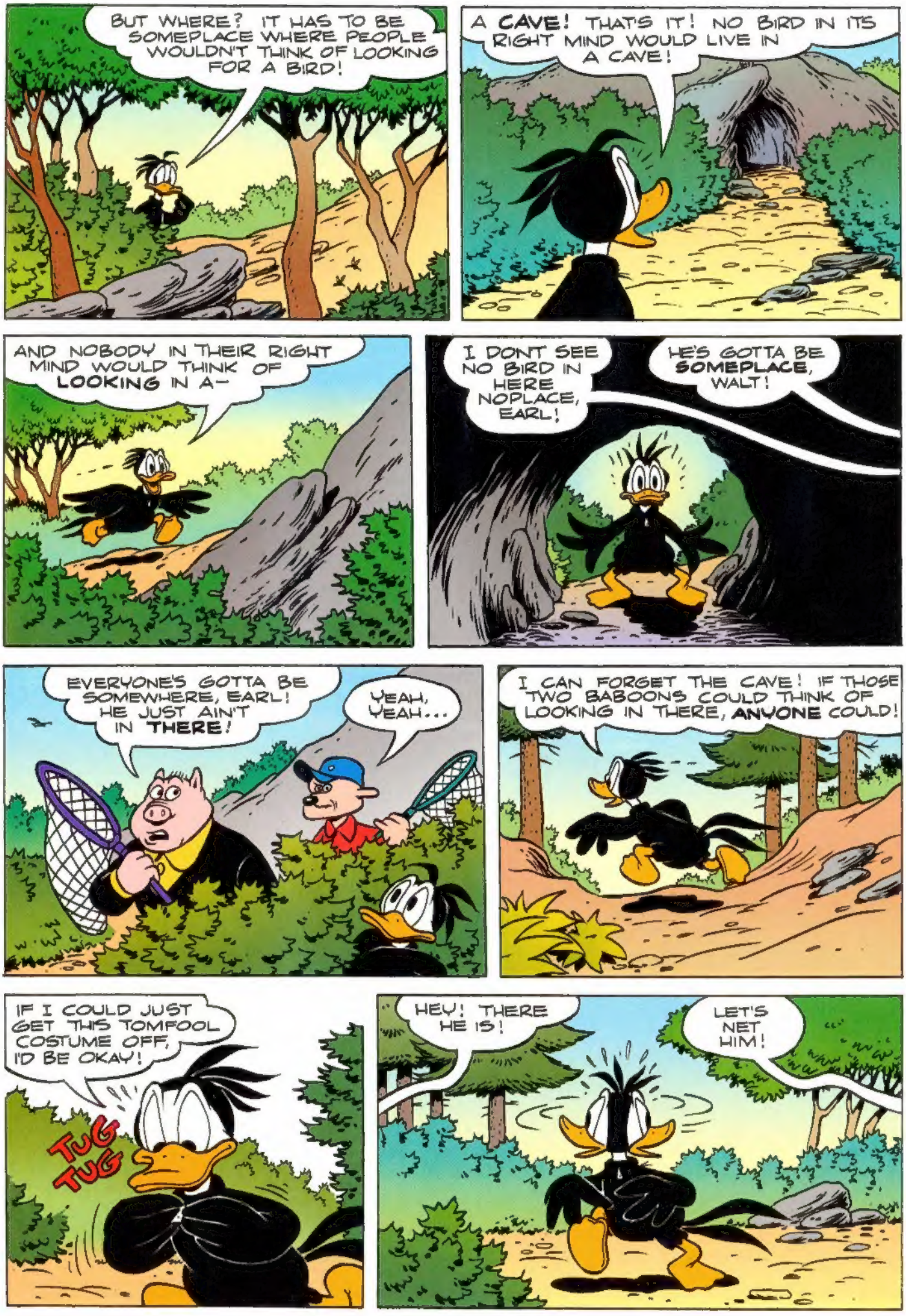

SO I'M GOING TO PROVIDE IT WITH SOME INNOCENT COMPANIONSHIP! HEH! HEH!
?
AND SO-
OH, NO! YOU LOOK LIKE A REFUGEE FROM THE TAXIDERMY WORKS!
THAT BIRD'LL TAKE ONE LOOK AT YOU AND TAKE OFF FOR PERU!
NOT NECESSARILY! I'M GOING TO PRETEND I'M LOST AND LONELY, TOO! BIRDSTYLE, OF COURSE!
OH, OF COURSE!
THEN, TONIGHT I'LL LURE IT BACK HERE TO THE HOUSE AND BINGO! THAT THOUSAND DOLLAR WINDFALL AND I WILL BE BOSOM BUDDIES FOR LIFE!
EARLY THE NEXT MORNING!
I'LL CHANGE IN THE WOODS! THAT WAY NO ONE WILL POP WISE TO MY LITTLE SCHEME!
SOON-
DEEP! PEEPIE DEEP, AND WEEPIE WEEPIE WEEP!
HMM! NOTHING! MAYBE I'M IN THE WRONG PART OF THE WOODS!
UH, OH! WHAT'S THAT?
RUSTLE RUSTLE

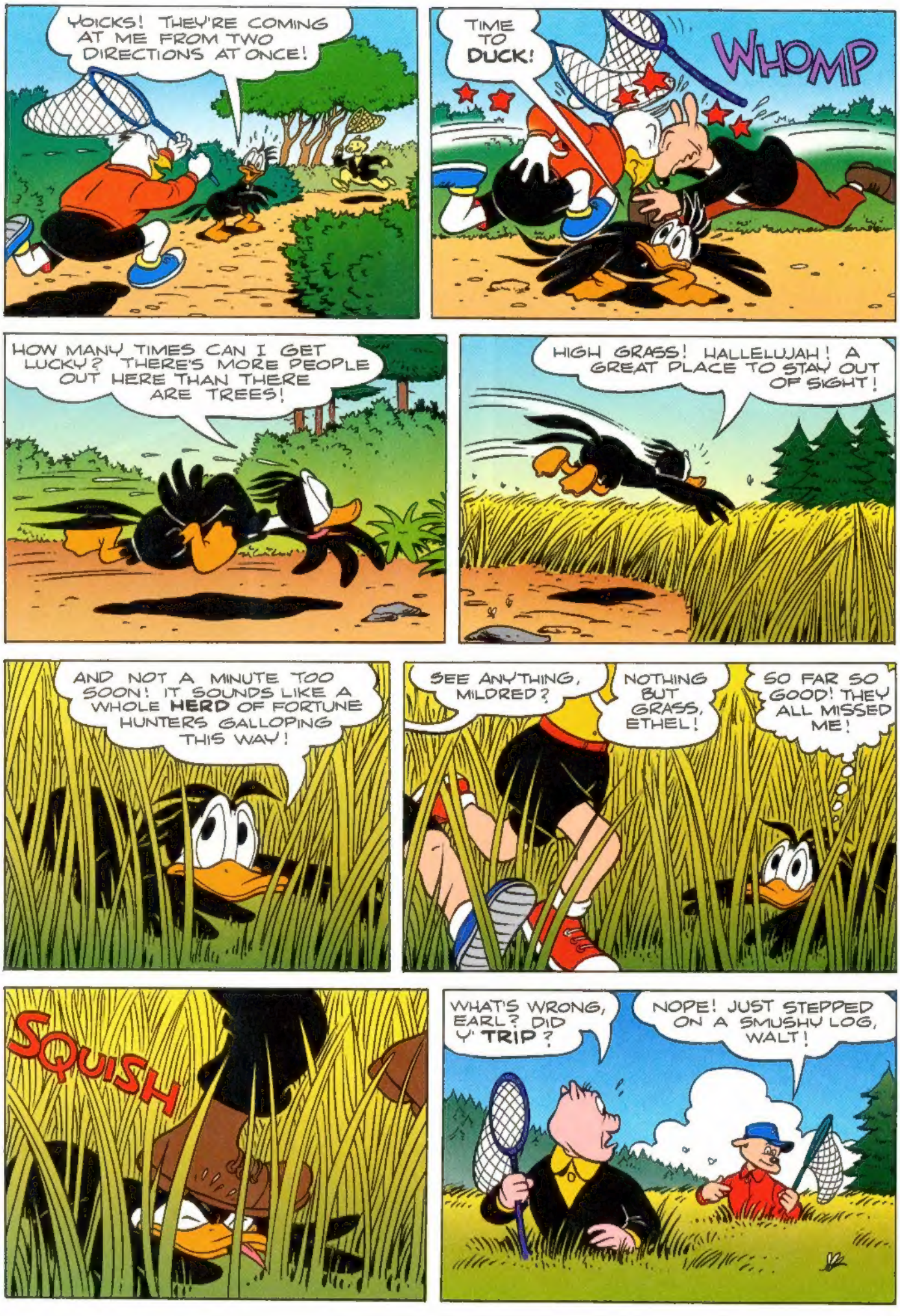

SOMETHING'S COMING THROUGH THAT UNDERBRUSH! I WONDER IF IT'S THE BIRD?
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S BIG! AND IT'S GETTING CLOSER!
RUSTLE
CRUNCH
I THINK I SAW SOMETHING OVER THIS WAY, EARL!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, WALT!
CLONK
I'VE GOTTA BE CAREFUL OUT HERE! THOSE TWO OAFS CAME THROUGH HERE LIKE A TRAIN WITH ITS CABOOSE ON FIRE!
THERE MUST BE A BETTER WAY TO GO ABOUT CONNECTING WITH THAT BIRD!
HEY! BIRDS ROOST IN TREES! MAYBE I OUGHT TO TRY THAT! IT'LL BE BETTER THAN GETTING TRAMPLED!

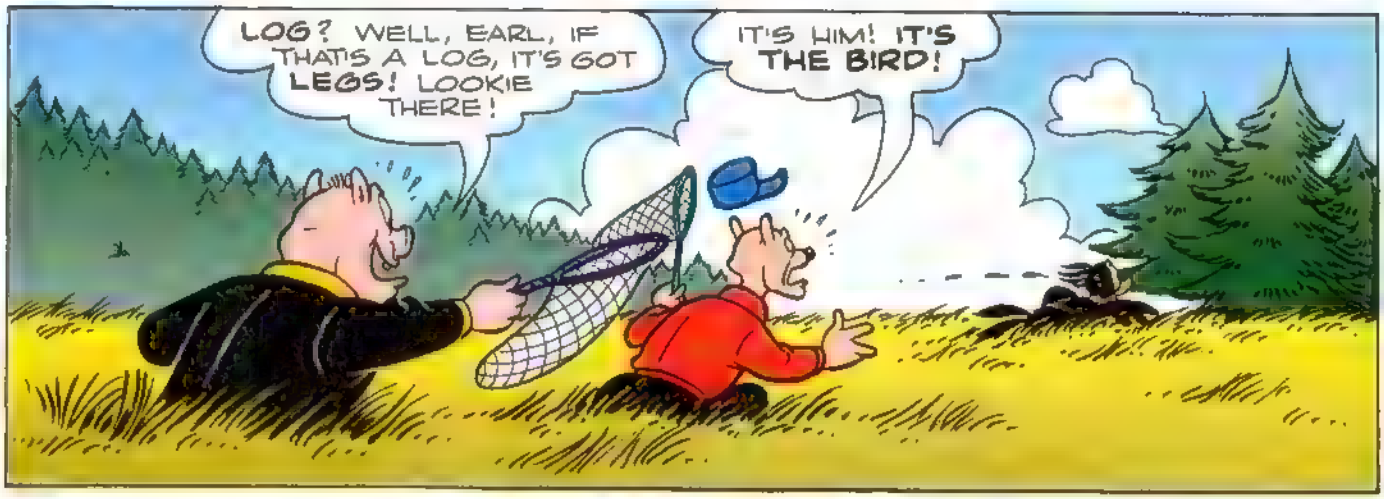
UNGH! I CAN SEE WHERE FLYING HAS ITS ADVANTAGES!
THERE! NOW TO WRIGGLE OUT ON THE BRANCH A WAYS SO THE BIRD'LL BE ABLE TO SEE ME!
TWEET TWEETY TWEET!
TWEET! T- UH OH! I'M MOVING!
I GUESS I'D BETTER SKOOTCH BACK TOWARD THE-
CRACK
SPLOOSH
SIGH! APPARENTLY IT DOESN'T PAY TO ROOST IN TREES UNLESS YOU CAN FLY!
RUSTLE
OH, WELL, LIVE AND LEARN! BUT IF I-WUP! SOMETHING ELSE IS MOVING AROUND OUT THERE!

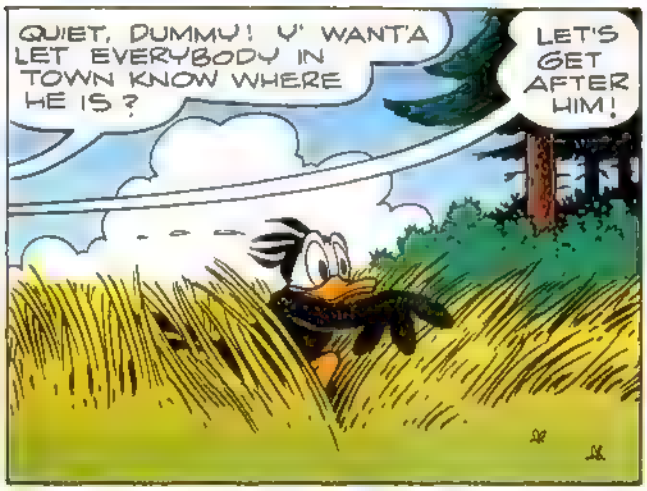
I WONDER IF IT'S THE – AHA! BINGOROONEY! IT'S THE BIRD, ALL RIGHT! WOW! IT IS A BIGGIE!
OBOYOBOY! JUST COME A LITTLE CLOSER, BABY, AND YOU'RE ALL MINE!
WHOMP
GOTCHA, ME PRETTY! THAT THOUSAND BUCKS IS AS GOOD AS IN THE BANK!
LET ME OUTTA HERE, YOU TIN-HORN DANIEL BOONE!
YE CATS! IT TALKS!
A TALKING BIRD HAS GOT TO BE WORTH TWICE AS MUCH AS ONE THAT DOESN'T!
MAYBE THREE TIMES!
WHO KNOWS! I COULD BECOME THE NEXT GOTROCKS OF DUCKBURG!
RIP
GOODBYE, GOTROCKS! SEE YOU NEVER!
HEY! COME BACK HERE!

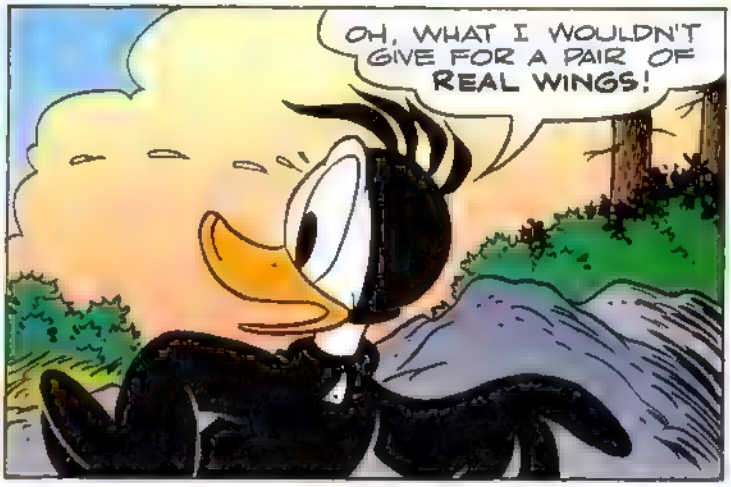

DONALD MAKES HIS ESCAPE, BUT IT ISN'T LONG BEFORE THE WORD IS OUT!
IMAGINE! A TALKING BIRD!
THEY SAY IT'S A REGULAR JABBERBOX!
MAYBE IT'LL GIVE UP AND RUN FOR OFFICE!
HEY! THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY HAS UPPED THE REWARD TO $5000!
NO WONDER DUCKBURG WOODS IS BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE DOWNTOWN AT RUSH HOUR!
THAT BIRD IS GOING TO HAVE A TOUGH TIME HIDING OUT NOW! HEH! HEH!
CRIMINEY ON TOAST! NOW EVERYBODY THINKS I'M THE BIRD!
I GUESS IT'S TIME TO THROW IN THE TOWEL, GET OUT OF THIS COSTUME AND GO HOME!
OH, GREAT! THE LAME-BRAINED ZIPPER IS JAMMED! NOW WHAT DO I DO?
TUG TUG
IF I HANG AROUND HERE, ONE OF THOSE GREEDY HYENAS WILL NAIL ME FOR SURE! I NEED SOMEPLACE TO HIDE UNTIL NIGHTFALL, THEN MAYBE I CAN SNEAK HOME!

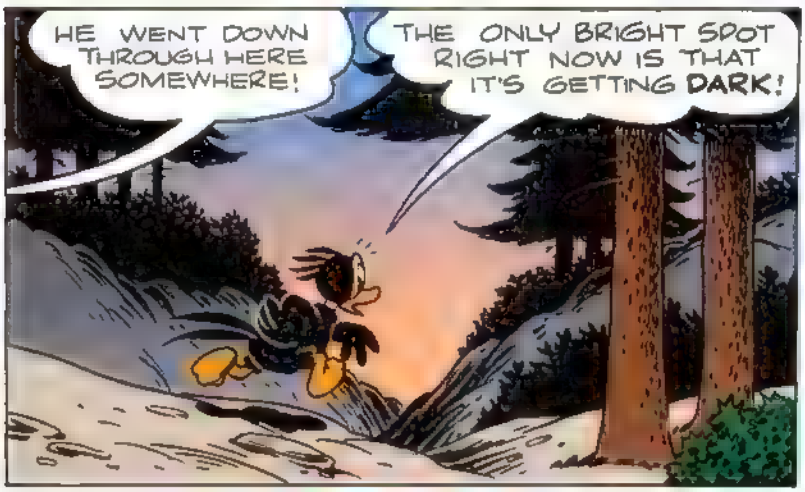

BUT WHERE? IT HAS TO BE SOMEPLACE WHERE PEOPLE WOULDN'T THINK OF LOOKING FOR A BIRD!
A CAVE! THAT'S IT! NO BIRD IN ITS RIGHT MIND WOULD LIVE IN A CAVE!
AND NOBODY IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD THINK OF LOOKING IN A—
I DONT SEE NO BIRD IN HERE NOPLACE, EARL!
HE'S GOTTA BE SOMEPLACE, WALT!
EVERYONE'S GOTTA BE SOMEWHERE, EARL! HE JUST AIN'T IN THERE!
YEAH, YEAH...
I CAN FORGET THE CAVE! IF THOSE TWO BABOONS COULD THINK OF LOOKING IN THERE, ANYONE COULD!
IF I COULD JUST GET THIS TOMFOOL COSTUME OFF, I'D BE OKAY!
TUG TUG
HEY! THERE HE IS!
LET'S NET HIM!

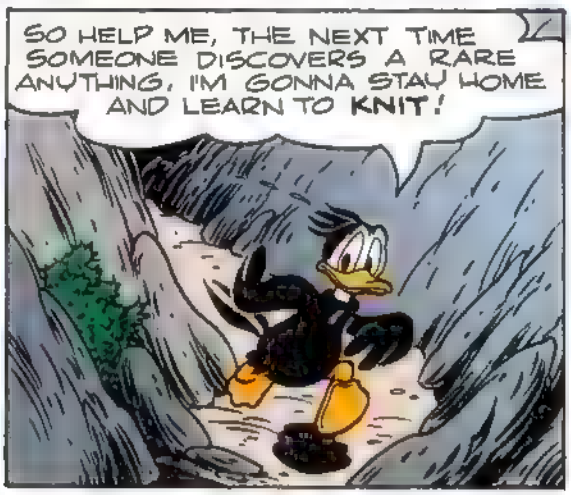

YOICKS! THEY'RE COMING AT ME FROM TWO DIRECTIONS AT ONCE!
TIME TO DUCK!
WHOMP
HOW MANY TIMES CAN I GET LUCKY? THERE'S MORE PEOPLE OUT HERE THAN THERE ARE TREES!
HIGH GRASS! HALLELUJAH! A GREAT PLACE TO STAY OUT OF SIGHT!
AND NOT A MINUTE TOO SOON! IT SOUNDS LIKE A WHOLE HERD OF FORTUNE HUNTERS GALLOPING THIS WAY!
SEE ANYTHING, MILDRED?
NOTHING BUT GRASS, ETHEL!
SO FAR SO GOOD! THEY ALL MISSED ME!
SQUISH
WHAT'S WRONG, EARL? DID Y' TRIP?
NOPE! JUST STEPPED ON A SMUSHY LOG, WALT!

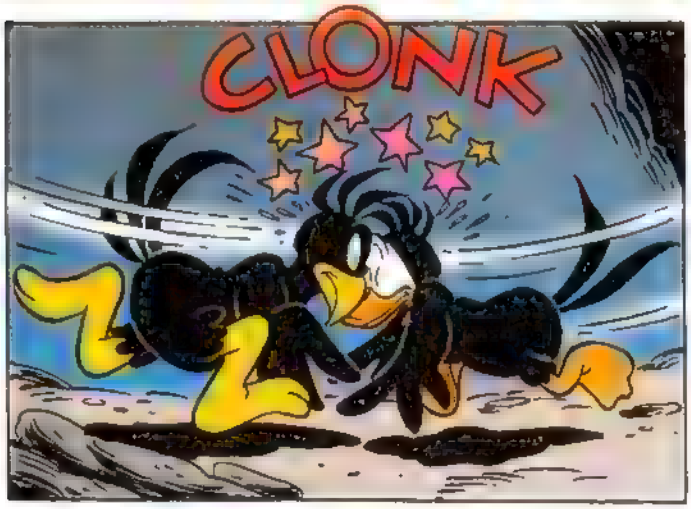

LOG? WELL, EARL, IF THAT'S A LOG, IT'S GOT LEGS! LOOKIE THERE!
IT'S HIM! IT'S THE BIRD!

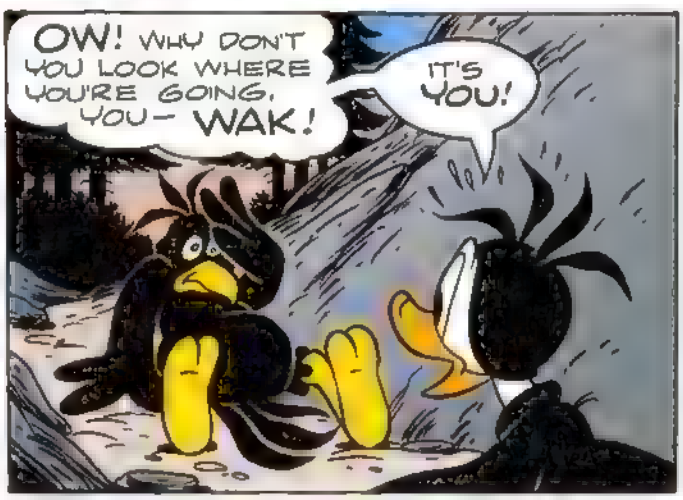

QUIET, DUMMY! Y' WANT'A LET EVERYBODY IN TOWN KNOW WHERE HE IS?
LET'S GET AFTER HIM!


OH, WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A PAIR OF REAL WINGS!


HE WENT DOWN THROUGH HERE SOMEWHERE!
THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT RIGHT NOW IS THAT IT'S GETTING DARK!


SO HELP ME, THE NEXT TIME SOMEONE DISCOVERS A RARE ANYTHING, I'M GONNA STAY HOME AND LEARN TO KNIT!


CLONK

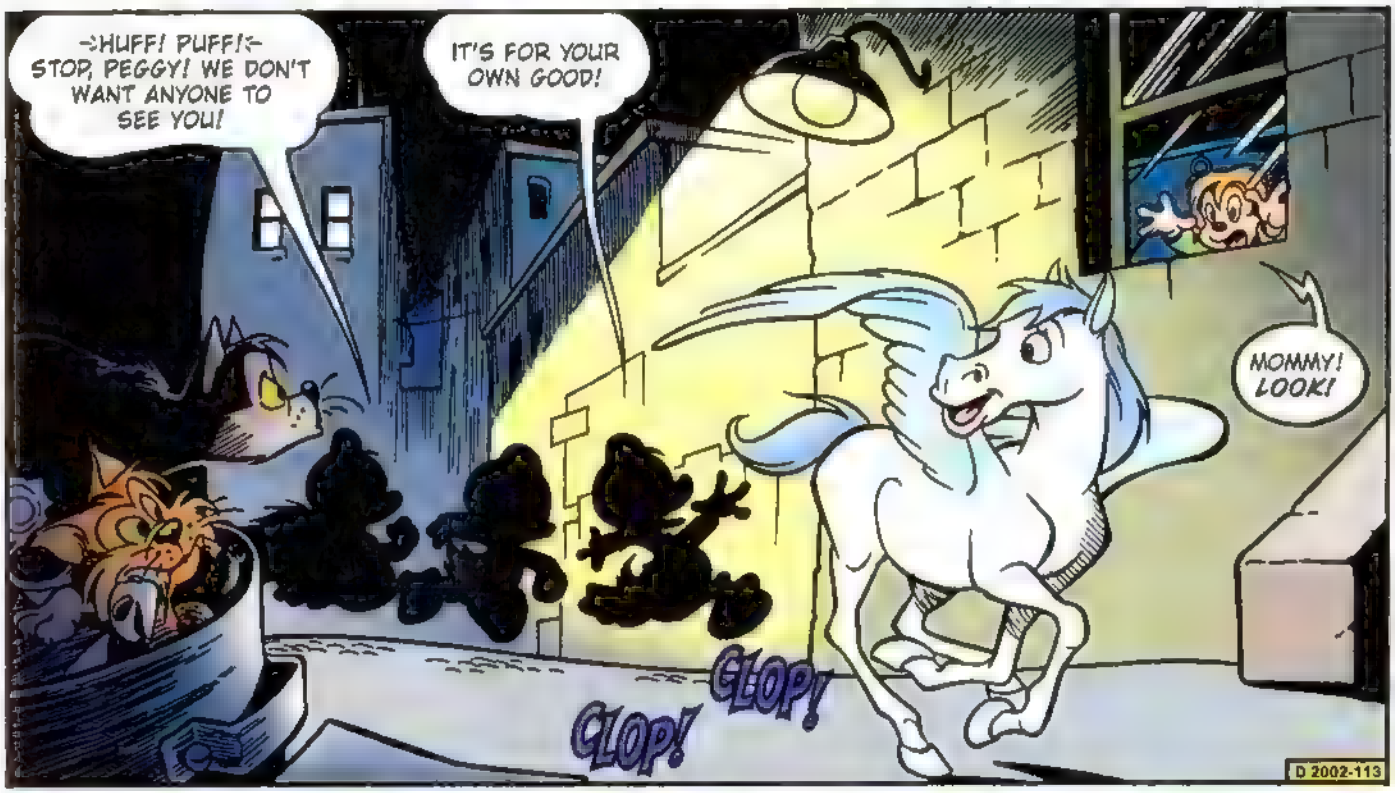

OW! WHY DON'T YOU LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU— WAK!
IT'S YOU!

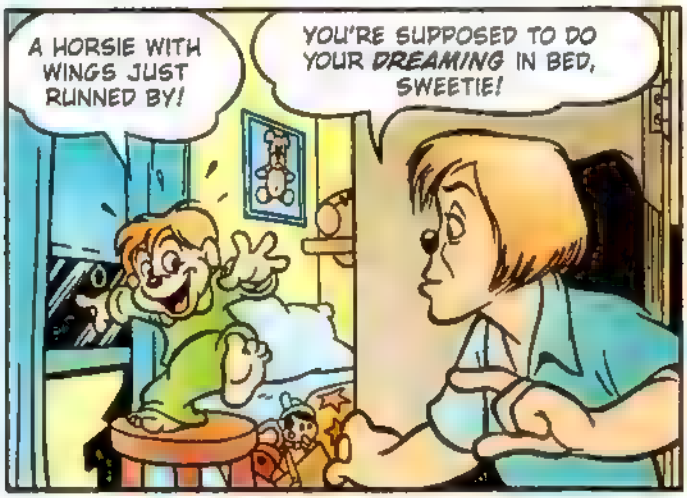
YOU'RE THE BIRD! THE RARE ONE! YOU'RE MY TICKET TO THE BIG BUCKS! I'M RICH!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUB IT IN PAL! I'VE HAD A TOUGH DAY!
YOU'VE HAD A- YOU TALK?
WELL OF COURSE! YOU'RE TALKING, AREN'T YOU?
WAIT A MINUTE! YOU AREN'T A BIRD, RARE OR OTHERWISE, ARE YOU?
NOPE! JUST A GUY PULLING OFF WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A PRETTY GOOD PRANK! THEN THE DOGGONED ZIPPER ON MY COSTUME JAMMED!
SO DID MINE!
WELL, THEN, BUDDY, I GUESS THE JOKE'S ON BOTH OF US, ISN'T IT?
OH, YOU THINK SO, DO YOU?
THUS-
HAVE A HEART, BUDDY! WE'VE ALREADY RUN ACROSS THREE COUNTIES!
DON'T WORRY! THERE'S MORE WHERE THEY CAME FROM!

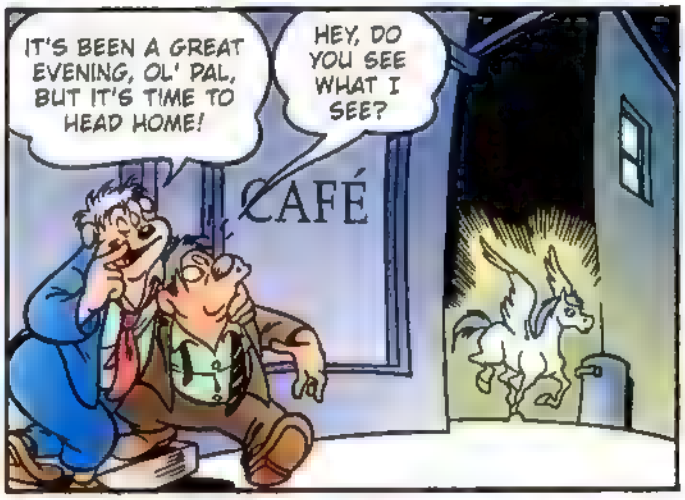
Walt Disney's

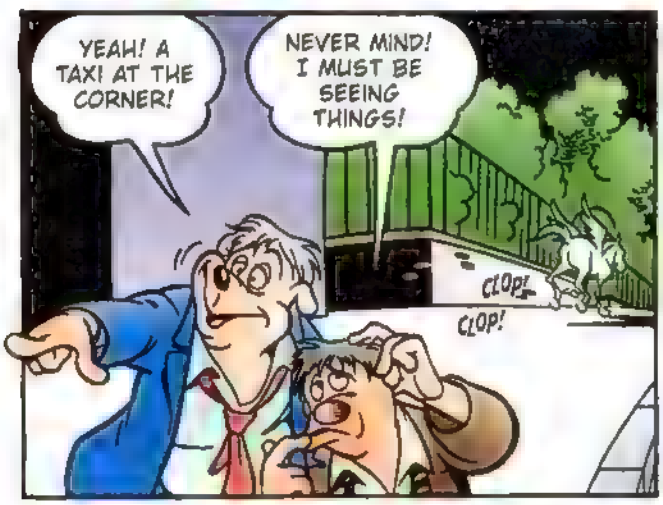
Huey, Dewey & Louie in Pegasus

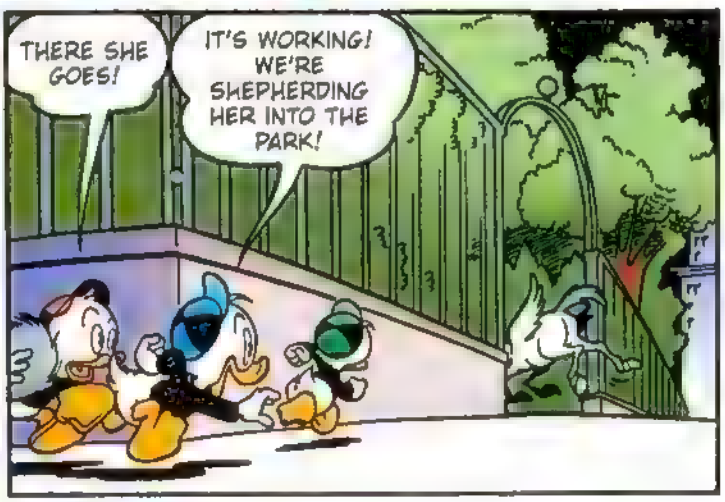
MYTHOS ISLAND: CHAPTER 3

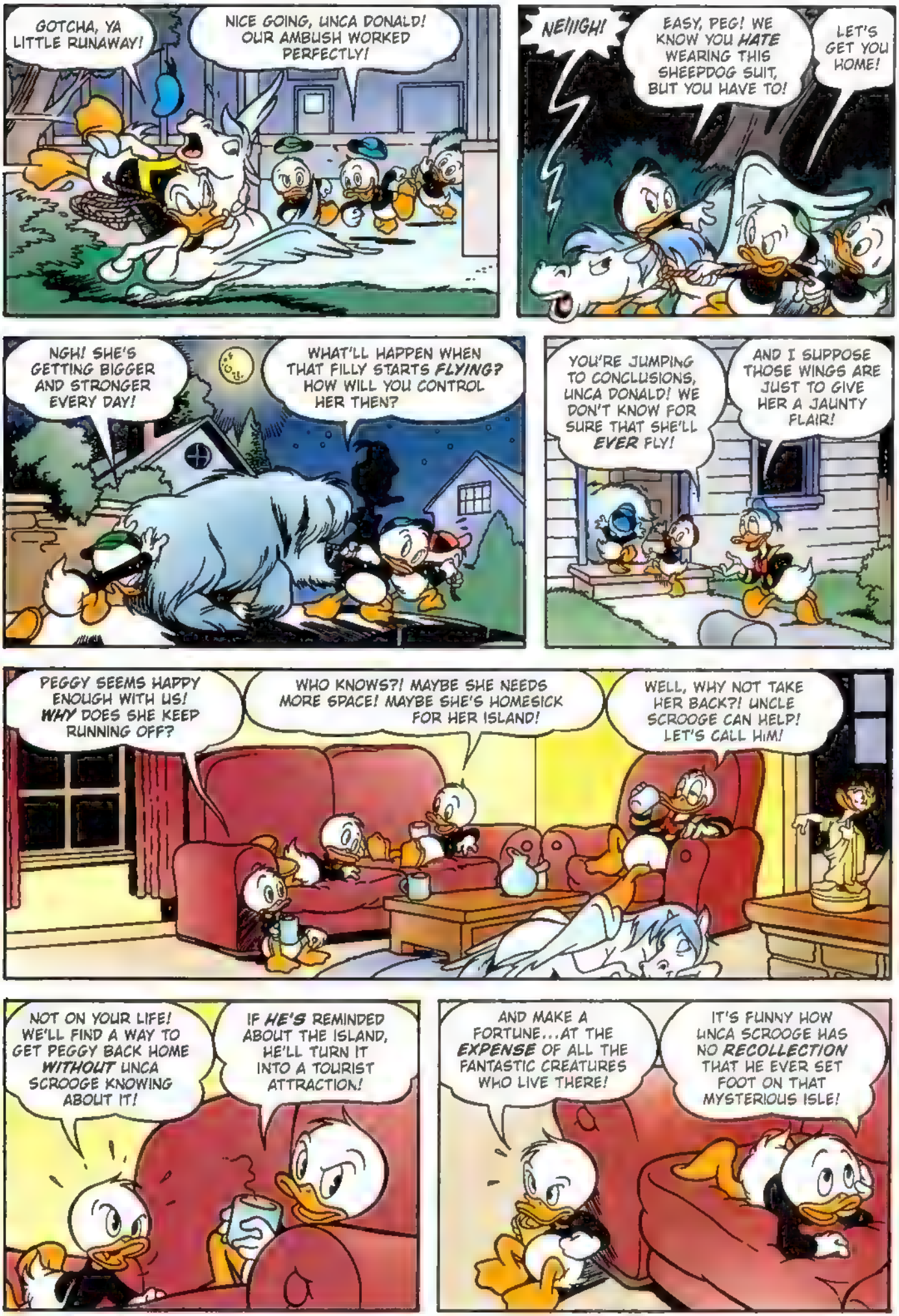


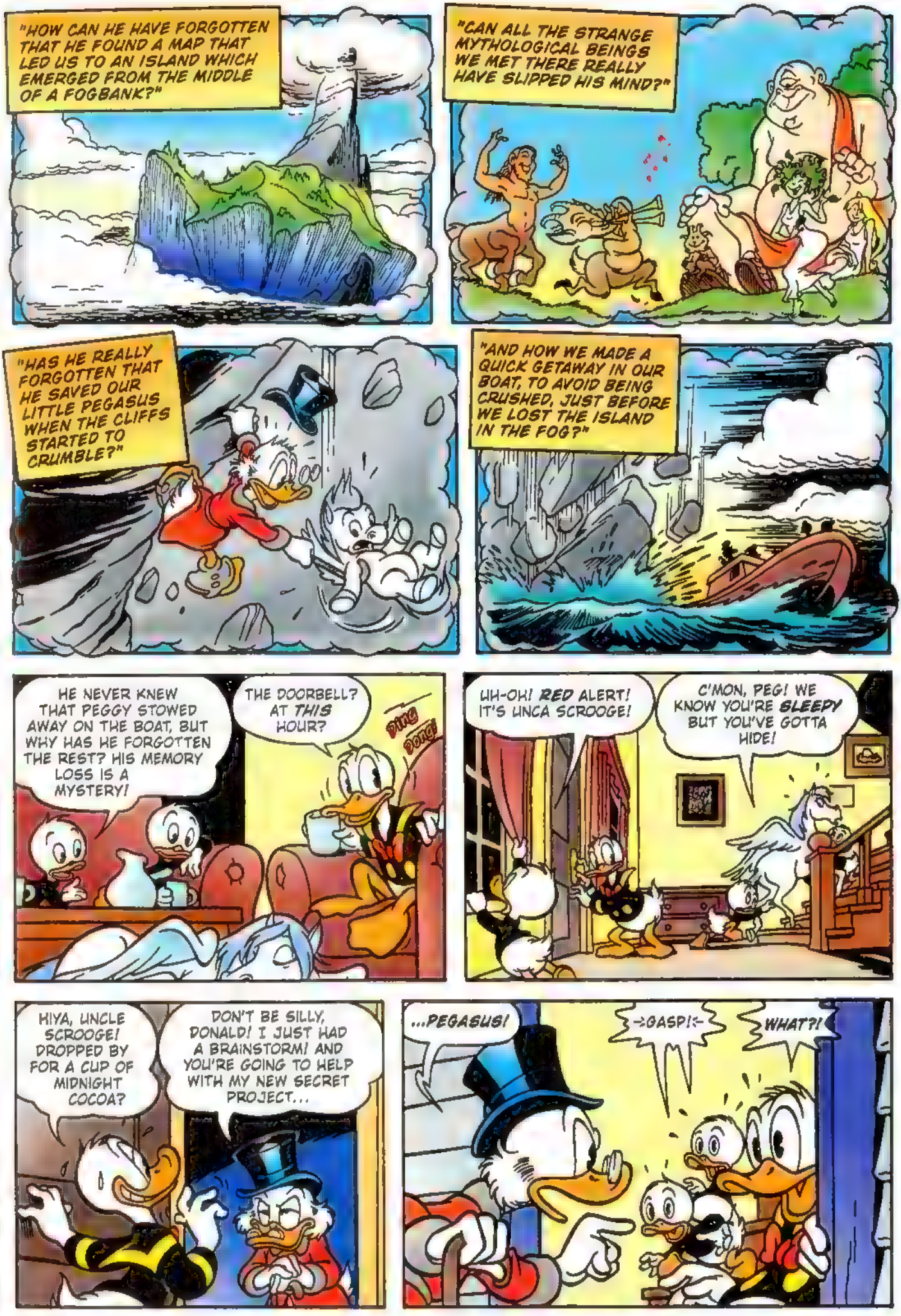


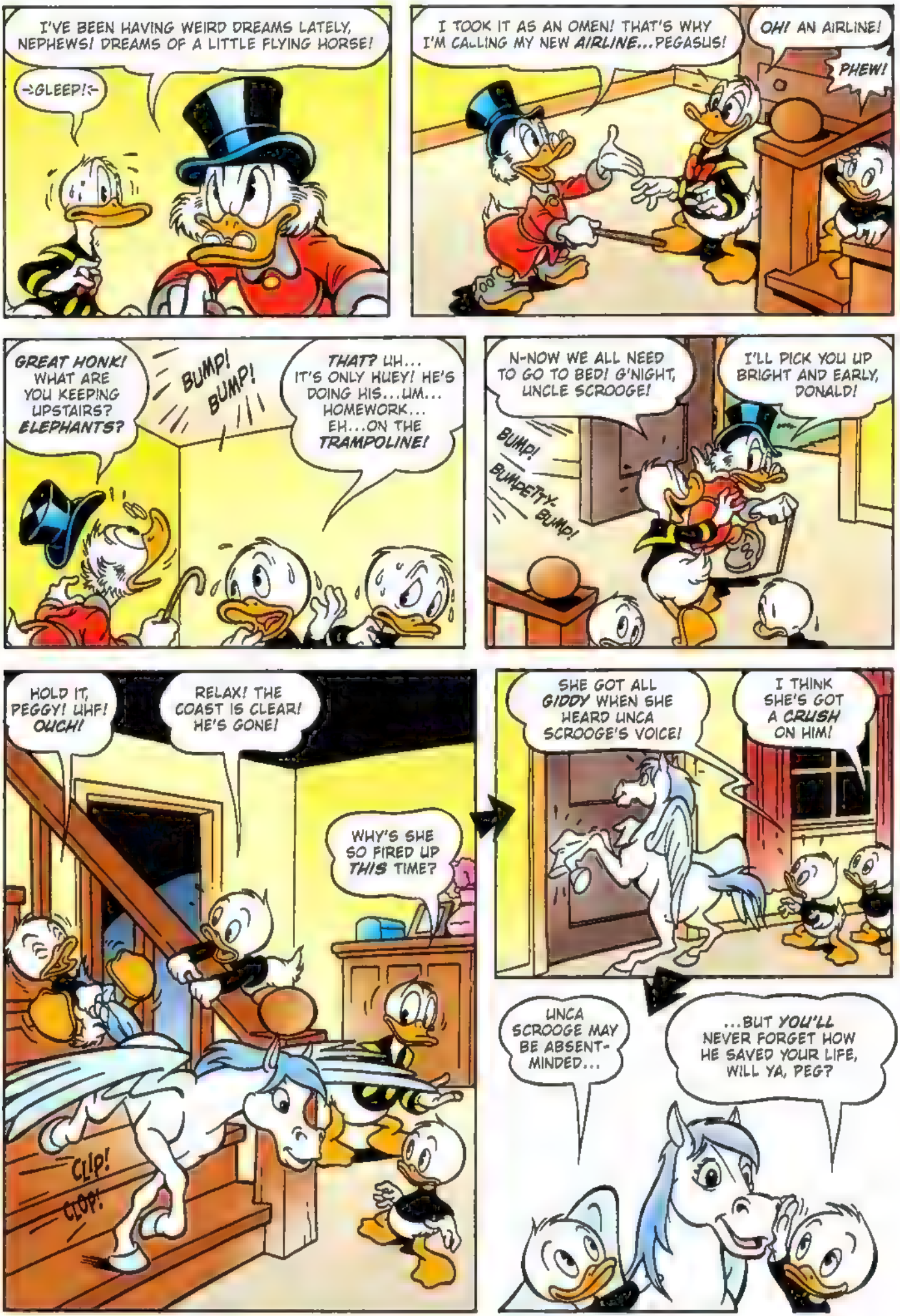


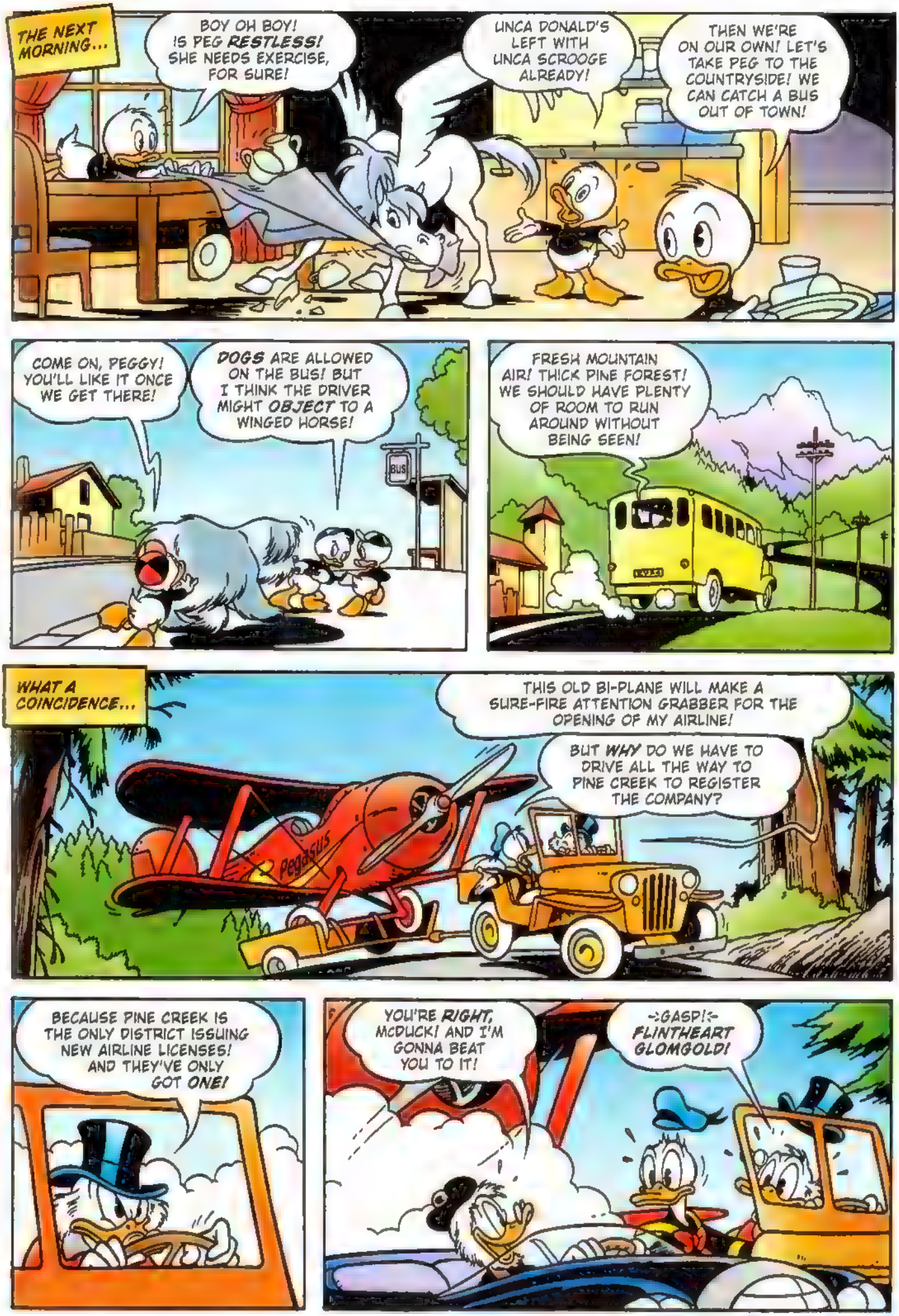




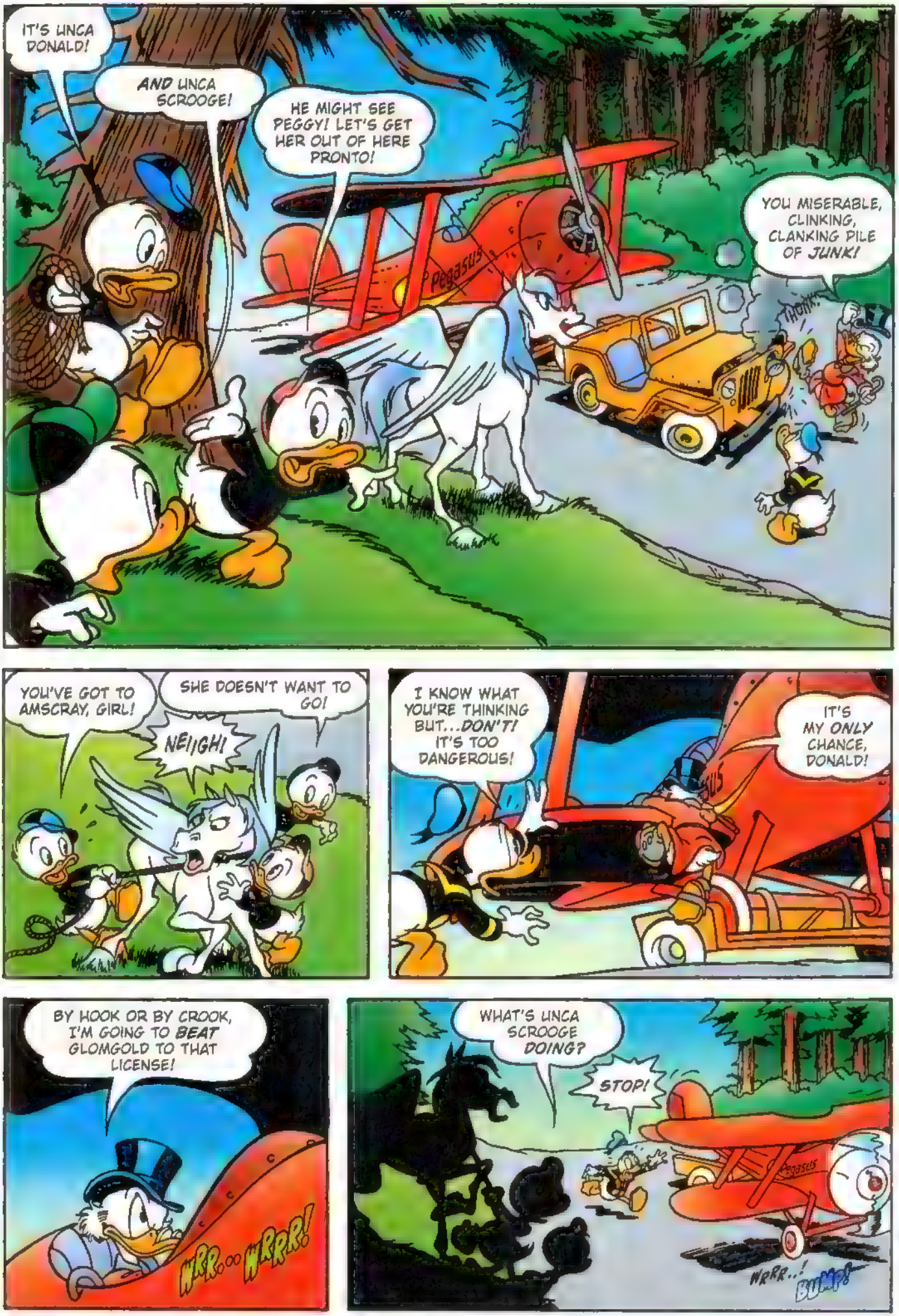

GOTCHA, YA LITTLE RUNAWAY!
NICE GOING, UNCA DONALD! OUR AMBUSH WORKED PERFECTLY!
NEIIIGH!
EASY, PEG! WE KNOW YOU HATE WEARING THIS SHEEPDOG SUIT, BUT YOU HAVE TO!
LET'S GET YOU HOME!
NGH! SHE'S GETTING BIGGER AND STRONGER EVERY DAY!
WHAT'LL HAPPEN WHEN THAT FILLY STARTS FLYING? HOW WILL YOU CONTROL HER THEN?
YOU'RE JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS, UNCA DONALD! WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THAT SHE'LL EVER FLY!
AND I SUPPOSE THOSE WINGS ARE JUST TO GIVE HER A JAUNTY FLAIR!
PEGGY SEEMS HAPPY ENOUGH WITH US! WHY DOES SHE KEEP RUNNING OFF?
WHO KNOWS?! MAYBE SHE NEEDS MORE SPACE! MAYBE SHE'S HOMESICK FOR HER ISLAND!
WELL, WHY NOT TAKE HER BACK?! UNCLE SCROOGE CAN HELP! LET'S CALL HIM!
NOT ON YOUR LIFE! WE'LL FIND A WAY TO GET PEGGY BACK HOME WITHOUT UNCA SCROOGE KNOWING ABOUT IT!
IF HE'S REMINDED ABOUT THE ISLAND, HE'LL TURN IT INTO A TOURIST ATTRACTION!
AND MAKE A FORTUNE...AT THE EXPENSE OF ALL THE FANTASTIC CREATURES WHO LIVE THERE!
IT'S FUNNY HOW UNCA SCROOGE HAS NO RECOLLECTION THAT HE EVER SET FOOT ON THAT MYSTERIOUS ISLE!


"HOW CAN HE HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT HE FOUND A MAP THAT LED US TO AN ISLAND WHICH EMERGED FROM THE MIDDLE OF A FOGBANK?"
"CAN ALL THE STRANGE MYTHOLOGICAL BEINGS WE MET THERE REALLY HAVE SLIPPED HIS MIND?"
"HAS HE REALLY FORGOTTEN THAT HE SAVED OUR LITTLE PEGASUS WHEN THE CLIFFS STARTED TO CRUMBLE?"
"AND HOW WE MADE A QUICK GETAWAY IN OUR BOAT, TO AVOID BEING CRUSHED, JUST BEFORE WE LOST THE ISLAND IN THE FOG?"
HE NEVER KNEW THAT PEGGY STOWED AWAY ON THE BOAT, BUT WHY HAS HE FORGOTTEN THE REST? HIS MEMORY LOSS IS A MYSTERY!
THE DOORBELL? AT THIS HOUR?
DING DONG!
UH-OH! RED ALERT! IT'S UNCA SCROOGE!
C'MON, PEG! WE KNOW YOU'RE SLEEPY BUT YOU'VE GOTTA HIDE!
HIYA, UNCLE SCROOGE! DROPPED BY FOR A CUP OF MIDNIGHT COCOA?
DON'T BE SILLY, DONALD! I JUST HAD A BRAINSTORM! AND YOU'RE GOING TO HELP WITH MY NEW SECRET PROJECT...
...PEGASUS!
=GASP!=
WHAT?!

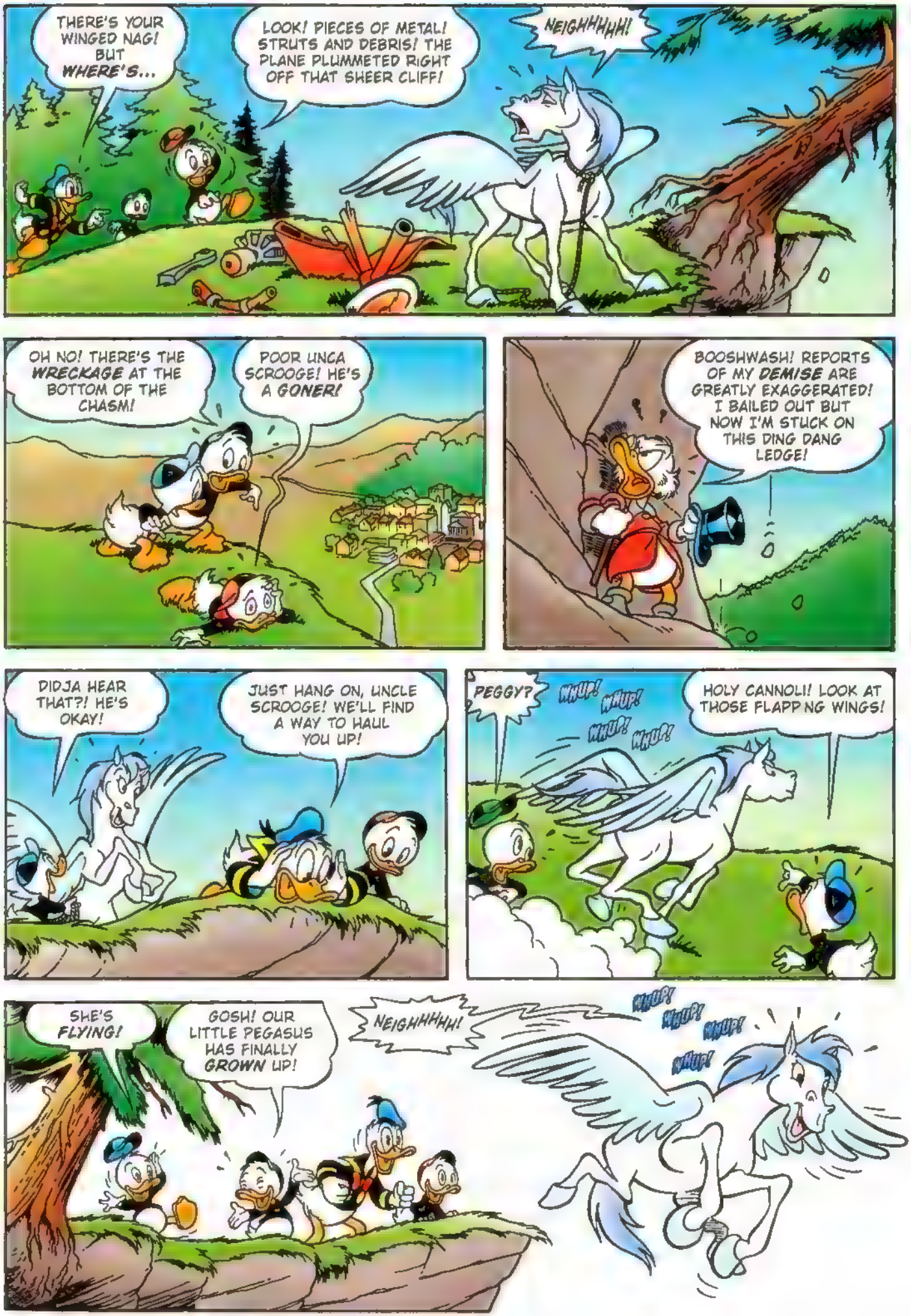

I'VE BEEN HAVING WEIRD DREAMS LATELY, NEPHEWS! DREAMS OF A LITTLE FLYING HORSE!
-GLEEP!-
I TOOK IT AS AN OMEN! THAT'S WHY I'M CALLING MY NEW AIRLINE...PEGASUS!
OH! AN AIRLINE!
PHEW!
GREAT HONK! WHAT ARE YOU KEEPING UPSTAIRS? ELEPHANTS?
BUMP! BUMP!
THAT? UH... IT'S ONLY HUEY! HE'S DOING HIS...UM... HOMEWORK... EH...ON THE TRAMPOLINE!
N-NOW WE ALL NEED TO GO TO BED! G'NIGHT, UNCLE SCROOGE!
I'LL PICK YOU UP BRIGHT AND EARLY, DONALD!
BUMP!
BUMPETY-X
BUMP!
HOLD IT, PEGGY! UHF! OUCH!
RELAX! THE COAST IS CLEAR! HE'S GONE!
WHY'S SHE SO FIRED UP THIS TIME?
CLIP!
CLOP!
SHE GOT ALL GIDDY WHEN SHE HEARD UNCA SCROOGE'S VOICE!
I THINK SHE'S GOT A CRUSH ON HIM!
UNCA SCROOGE MAY BE ABSENT-MINDED...
...BUT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET HOW HE SAVED YOUR LIFE, WILL YA, PEG?


THE NEXT MORNING...
BOY OH BOY! IS PEG RESTLESS! SHE NEEDS EXERCISE, FOR SURE!
UNCA DONALD'S LEFT WITH UNCA SCROOGE ALREADY!
THEN WE'RE ON OUR OWN! LET'S TAKE PEG TO THE COUNTRYSIDE! WE CAN CATCH A BUS OUT OF TOWN!
COME ON, PEGGY! YOU'LL LIKE IT ONCE WE GET THERE!
DOGS ARE ALLOWED ON THE BUS! BUT I THINK THE DRIVER MIGHT OBJECT TO A WINGED HORSE!
BUS
FRESH MOUNTAIN AIR! THICK PINE FOREST! WE SHOULD HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM TO RUN AROUND WITHOUT BEING SEEN!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE...
THIS OLD BI-PLANE WILL MAKE A SURE-FIRE ATTENTION GRABBER FOR THE OPENING OF MY AIRLINE!
BUT WHY DO WE HAVE TO DRIVE ALL THE WAY TO PINE CREEK TO REGISTER THE COMPANY?
Pegasus
BECAUSE PINE CREEK IS THE ONLY DISTRICT ISSUING NEW AIRLINE LICENSES! AND THEY'VE ONLY GOT ONE!
YOU'RE RIGHT, McDUCK! AND I'M GONNA BEAT YOU TO IT!
-:GASP!:- FLINTHEART GLOMGOLD!

HAH! FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED! GLOMGOLD'S GOLDEN AIRWAYS WILL REAP A FORTUNE!
TRYING TO STEAL MY IDEAS, AS USUAL! WELL, I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO LAUNCH AN AIRLINE!
TSK! TSK! WITH PLANES LIKE THAT, YOU'LL BE OUT OF BUSINESS FASTER THAN A HIGHLAND JIG!
HANG ON, DONALD! WE'RE GONNA BEAT HIM TO PINE CREEK!
LOOKS LIKE MY CAR IS FASTER THAN YOURS! SO LONG, SUCKERS!
UNCLE SCROOGE! SLOW DOWN! YOUR OLD JALOPY CAN'T TAKE THE STRAIN!
VROOOOM!
WACK!
WHAT'D I TELL YOU?
WRR... CRACK... CRUNCH!
MEAN-WHILE, NEARBY...
HA-HA! PEGGY'S REALLY ENJOYING THIS!
GET OFF, HUEY! IT'S MY TURN TO RIDE!
UHF!
OUCH!
SNORT!
NOW WHAT?
SCREECH!
PEG HEARD SOMETHING!
A VOICE! SHE'S HEADING RIGHT TOWARDS IT!
AND DOES SHE LOOK HAPPY!

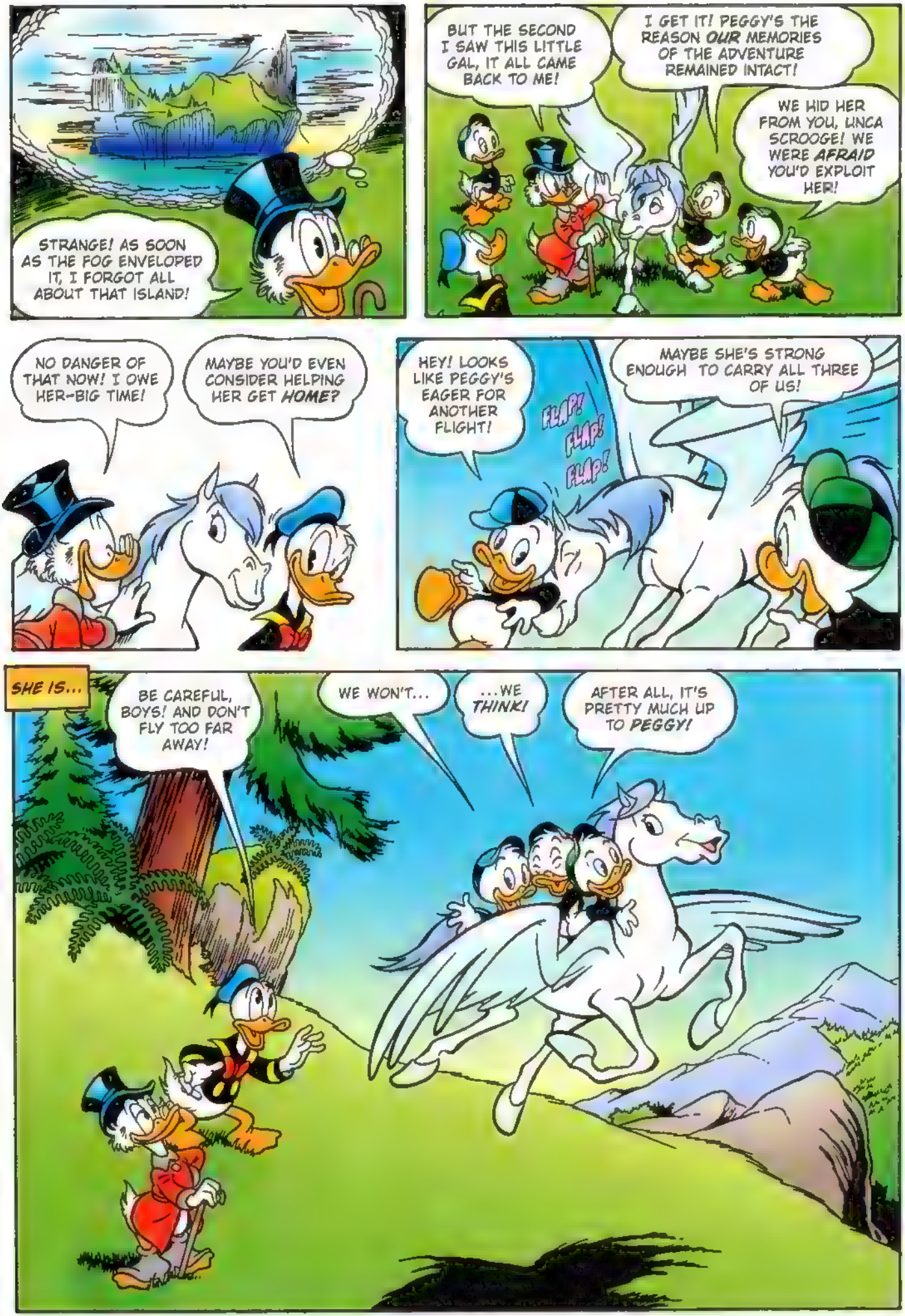

IT'S UNCA DONALD!
AND UNCA SCROOGE!
HE MIGHT SEE PEGGY! LET'S GET HER OUT OF HERE PRONTO!
Pegasus
YOU MISERABLE, CLINKING, CLANKING PILE OF JUNK!
THUNK
YOU'VE GOT TO AMSCRAY, GIRL!
SHE DOESN'T WANT TO GO!
NEIGH!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING BUT...DON'T! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE, DONALD!
BY HOOK OR BY CROOK, I'M GOING TO BEAT GLOMGOLD TO THAT LICENSE!
WRR...WRRR!
WHAT'S UNCA SCROOGE DOING?
STOP!
Pegasus
WRRR..!
BUMP!

MRROOO!
Pegasus
PEGGY! WAIT!
IROOOM!
AWP! WHAT'RE YOU TERMITES DOING HERE?
LET'S SAVE THE EXPLANATIONS FOR LATER!
CUSHLA-MACREE! I JUMPED THE GUN!
THIS PLANE WAS NEVER SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE GROUND!
I'M LOSING ALTITUDE! ->GULP!<- FAST!
KRRRAAASH!
GRUNCH!
SKKREEEEEE!


THERE'S YOUR WINGED NAG! BUT WHERE'S...
LOOK! PIECES OF METAL! STRUTS AND DEBRIS! THE PLANE PLUMMETED RIGHT OFF THAT SHEER CLIFF!
NEIGHHHHH!
OH NO! THERE'S THE WRECKAGE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CHASM!
POOR UNCA SCROOGE! HE'S A GONER!
BOOSHWASH! REPORTS OF MY DEMISE ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATED! I BAILED OUT BUT NOW I'M STUCK ON THIS DING DANG LEDGE!
DIDJA HEAR THAT?! HE'S OKAY!
JUST HANG ON, UNCLE SCROOGE! WE'LL FIND A WAY TO HAUL YOU UP!
PEGGY?
WHUP! WHUP! WHUP! WHUP!
HOLY CANNOLI! LOOK AT THOSE FLAPP NG WINGS!
SHE'S FLYING!
GOSH! OUR LITTLE PEGASUS HAS FINALLY GROWN UP!
NEIGHHHHH!
WHUP! WHUP! WHUP! WHUP!

WHAT THE--?! STOP THE PRESSES! I REMEMBER YOU! AND THE ISLAND!
NEIGHHH!
YES! IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME NOW, MY FRIEND! SATYRS! CYCLOPS! CENTAURS AND NYMPHS!
WHAT, GIRL?! YOU WANT ME TO SIT ON YOUR BACK?! YOU THINK YOU CAN CARRY ME?!
PEGGY?! WHERE ARE YOU?
THERE SHE IS! YIPPEE! SHE SAVED UNCA SCROOGE!!
THREE CHEERS FOR THE FLYING FILLY!
JEEPERS! LOOK AT HER GLIDE THROUGH THE AIR! SHE'S REALLY IN HER ELEMENT!
HMMM...YOU COULD DO ME ANOTHER WHOPPING FAVOR, GIRL! WHAT SAY WE FLY AN EXTRA LAP?
HEY! WHERE THE HECK ARE THEY GOING NOW?
THEY'RE HEADED FOR PINE CREEK! I KNOW WHAT THAT CRAFTY OLD BIRD'S UP TO!

LOOK! ON THE CITY HALL BALCONY!
MR. MAYOR! CAN YOU SPARE A MINUTE?
-:GASP!:- MR. McDUCK?!
I'M HERE TO CLAIM THAT AIRLINE LICENSE! NO ONE'S BEAT ME TO IT, I PRESUME?
NOT A SOUL, MR. McDUCK! IT'S ALL YOURS!
LET ME THROUGH! I'VE GOT IMPORTANT BUSINESS WITH THE MAYOR!
LAY OFF THE HORN, MAC! SOME GEEZER'S PULLING OFF AN AMAZING PR STUNT!
HONK
CITY HALL
IT MUST BE A PROMOTION FOR HIS NEW AIRLINE... PEGASUS!
THAT EXPLAINS IT! HERE HE COMES!
HEY, GLOMGOLD! YOU'VE GOT TO GET UP PRETTY EARLY IN THE MORNING IF YOU WANT TO COMPETE WITH SCROOGE McDUCK!
HOW DID HE DO THAT?! IT WAS A GIMMICK, RIGHT?
MUST BE SOME KINDA MECHANICAL THINGAMAJIG! EVERYBODY KNOWS FLYING HORSES DON'T EXIST!
SHORTLY...
LOOK, THERE'S PEGASUS WITH UNCA SCROOGE!


STRANGE! AS SOON AS THE FOG ENVELOPED IT, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THAT ISLAND!
BUT THE SECOND I SAW THIS LITTLE GAL, IT ALL CAME BACK TO ME!
I GET IT! PEGGY'S THE REASON OUR MEMORIES OF THE ADVENTURE REMAINED INTACT!
WE HID HER FROM YOU, UNCA SCROOGE! WE WERE AFRAID YOU'D EXPLOIT HER!
NO DANGER OF THAT NOW! I OWE HER-BIG TIME!
MAYBE YOU'D EVEN CONSIDER HELPING HER GET HOME?
HEY! LOOKS LIKE PEGGY'S EAGER FOR ANOTHER FLIGHT!
FLAP! FLAP! FLAP!
MAYBE SHE'S STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY ALL THREE OF US!
SHE IS...
BE CAREFUL, BOYS! AND DON'T FLY TOO FAR AWAY!
WE WON'T...
...WE THINK!
AFTER ALL, IT'S PRETTY MUCH UP TO PEGGY!

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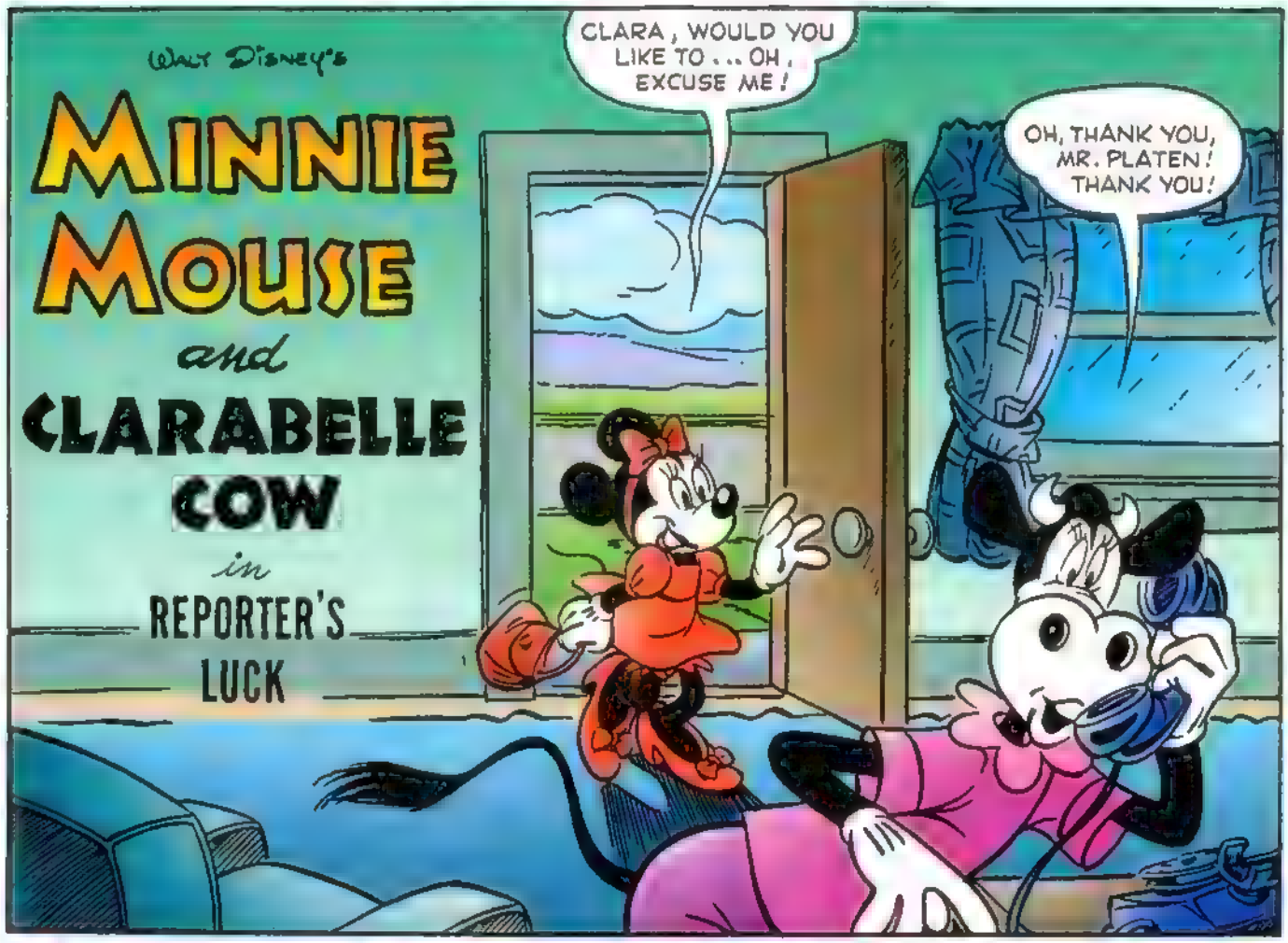
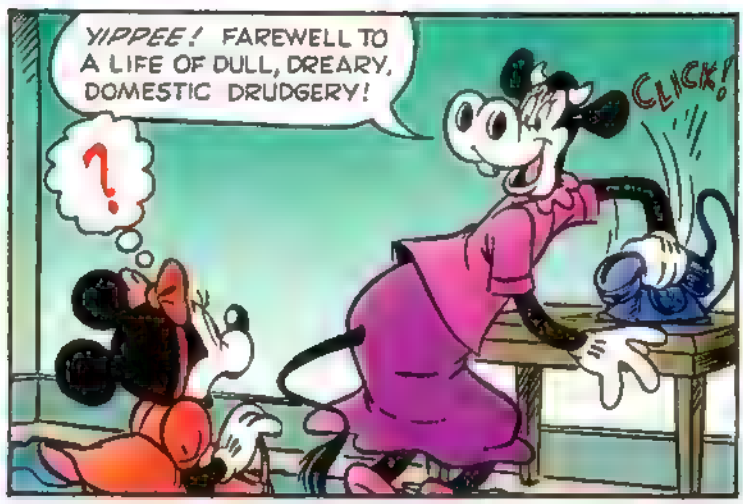
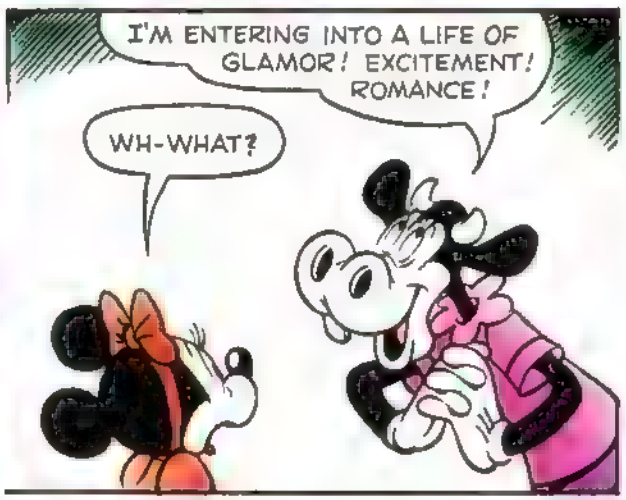
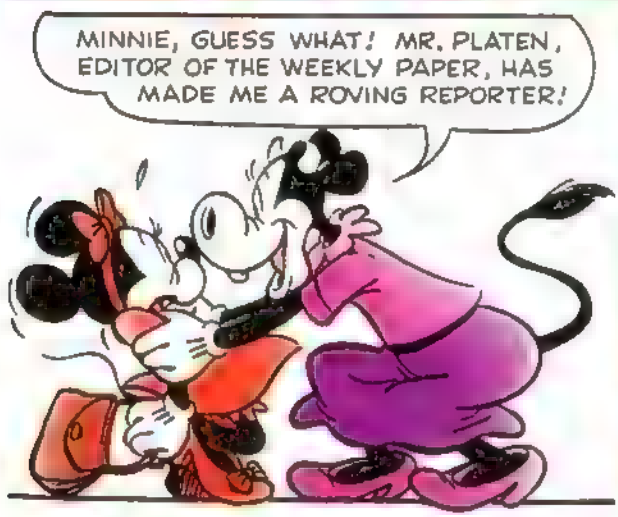
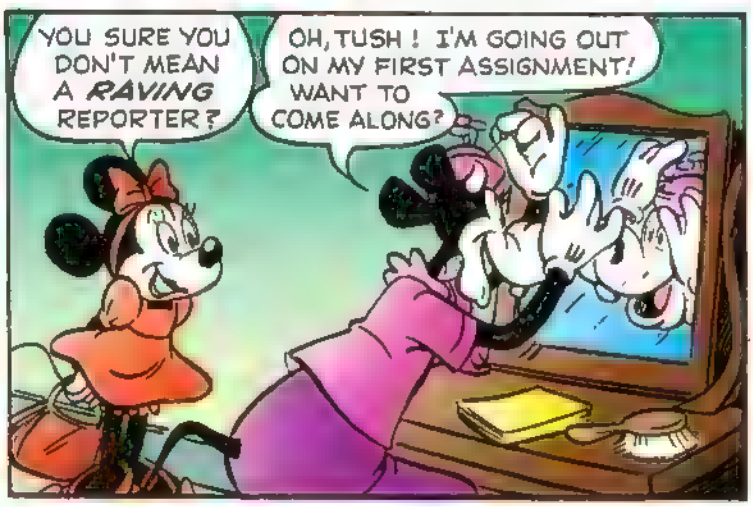
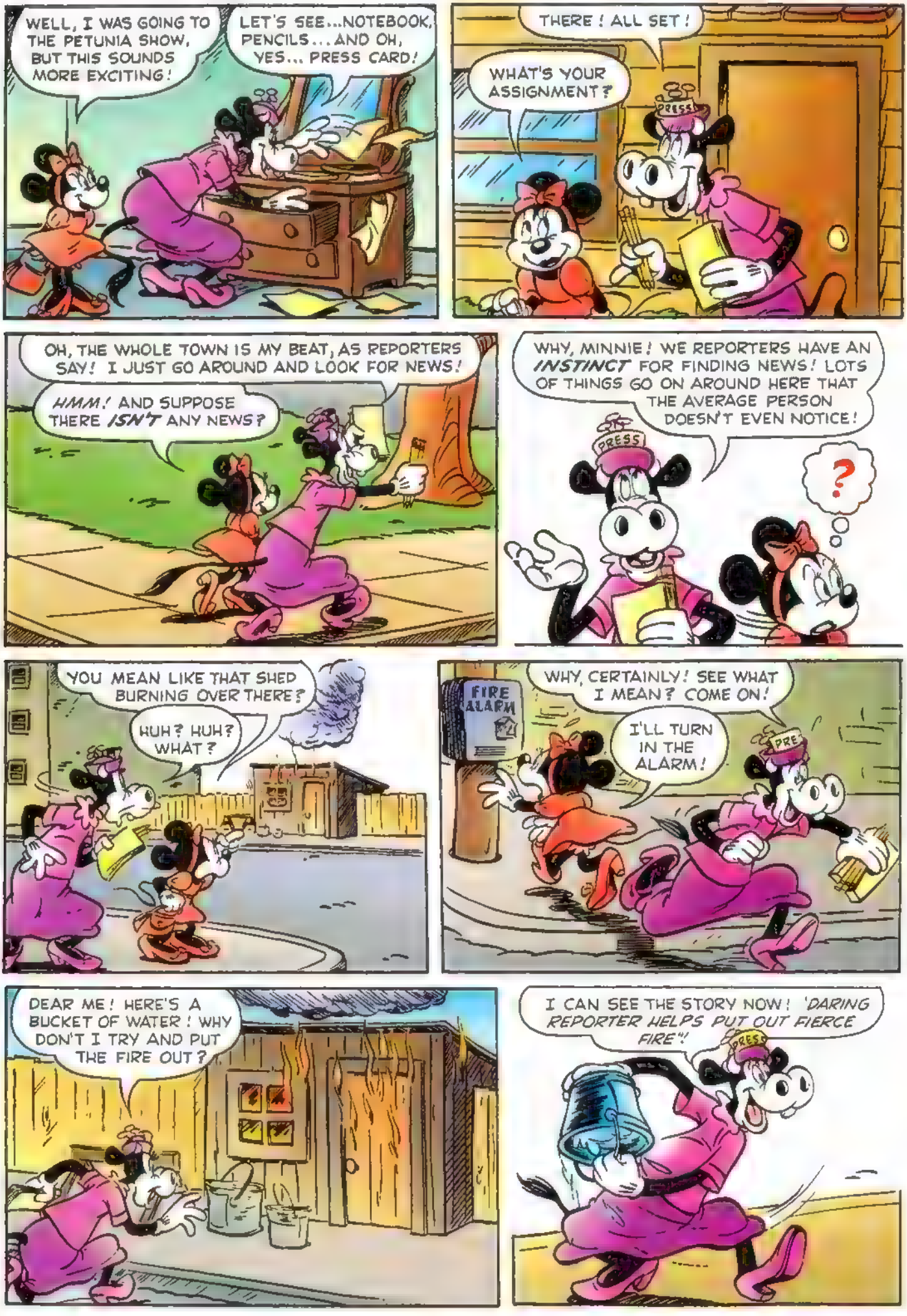

Walt Disney's
MINNIE MOUSE
and
CLARABELLE COW
in
REPORTER'S LUCK
CLARA, WOULD YOU LIKE TO... OH, EXCUSE ME!
OH, THANK YOU, MR. PLATEN! THANK YOU!


YIPPEE! FAREWELL TO A LIFE OF DULL, DREARY, DOMESTIC DRUDGERY!
?
CLICK!

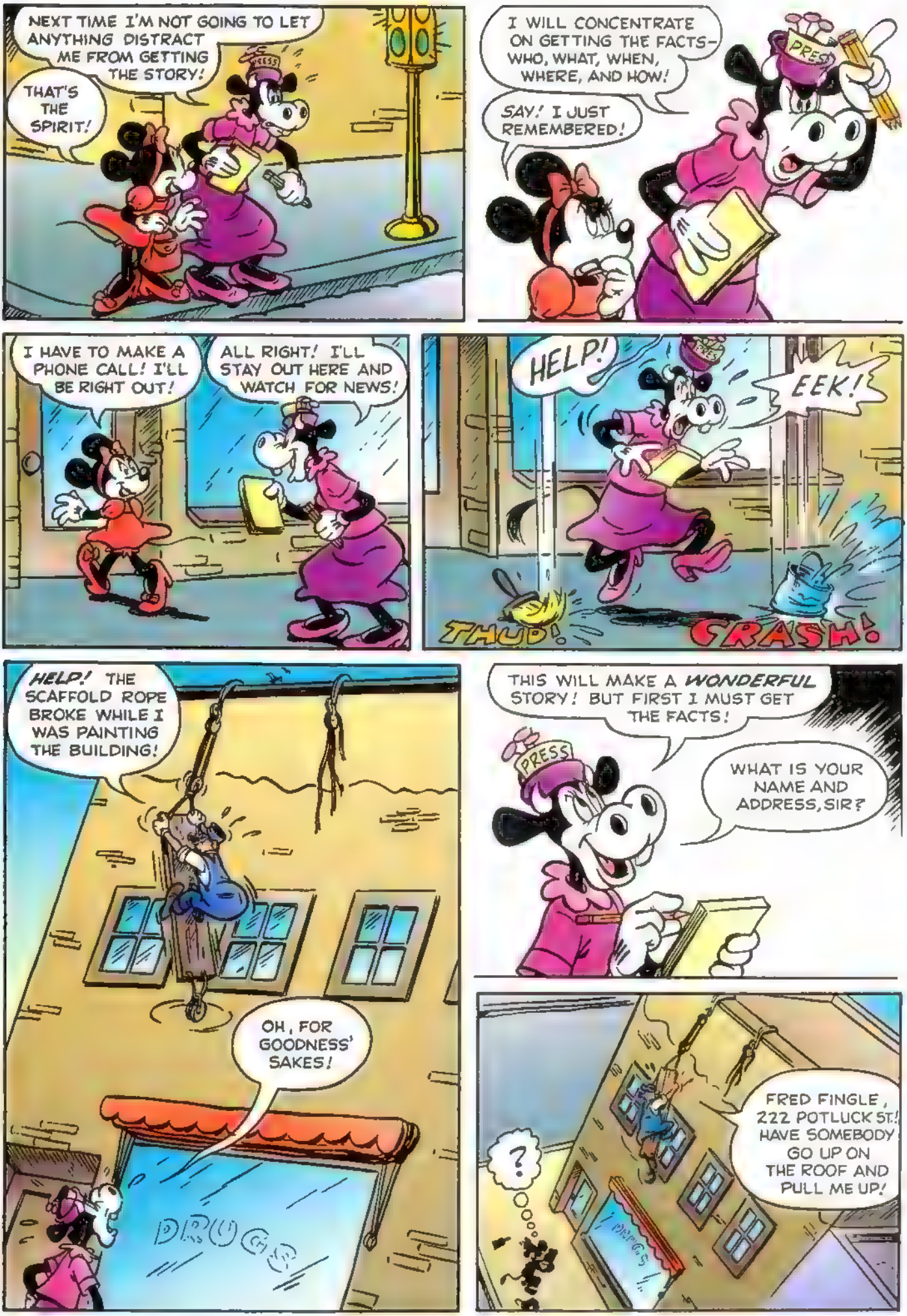

I'M ENTERING INTO A LIFE OF GLAMOR! EXCITEMENT! ROMANCE!
WH-WHAT?

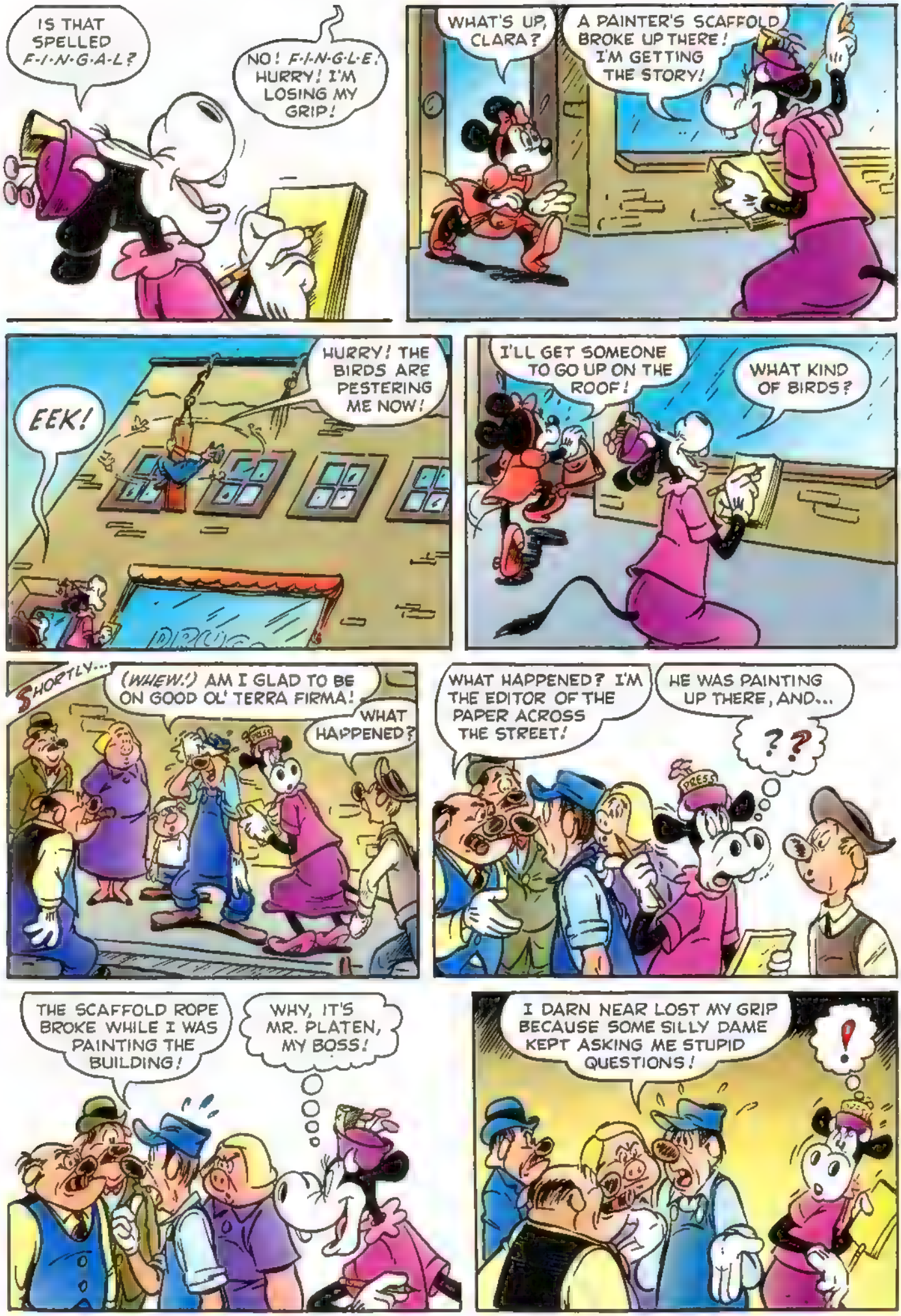

MINNIE, GUESS WHAT! MR. PLATEN, EDITOR OF THE WEEKLY PAPER, HAS MADE ME A ROVING REPORTER!

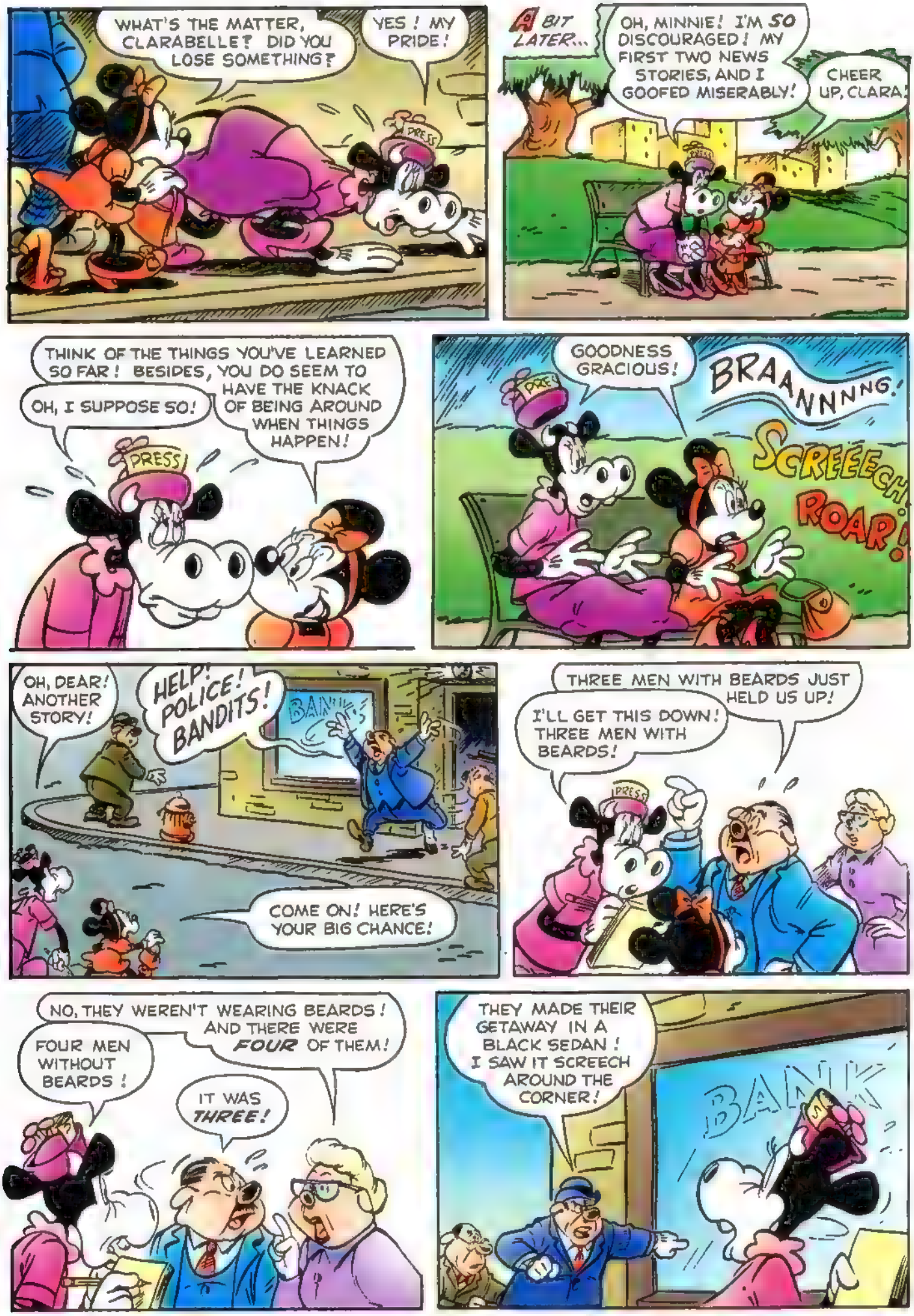

YOU SURE YOU DON'T MEAN A RAVING REPORTER?
OH, TUSH! I'M GOING OUT ON MY FIRST ASSIGNMENT! WANT TO COME ALONG?

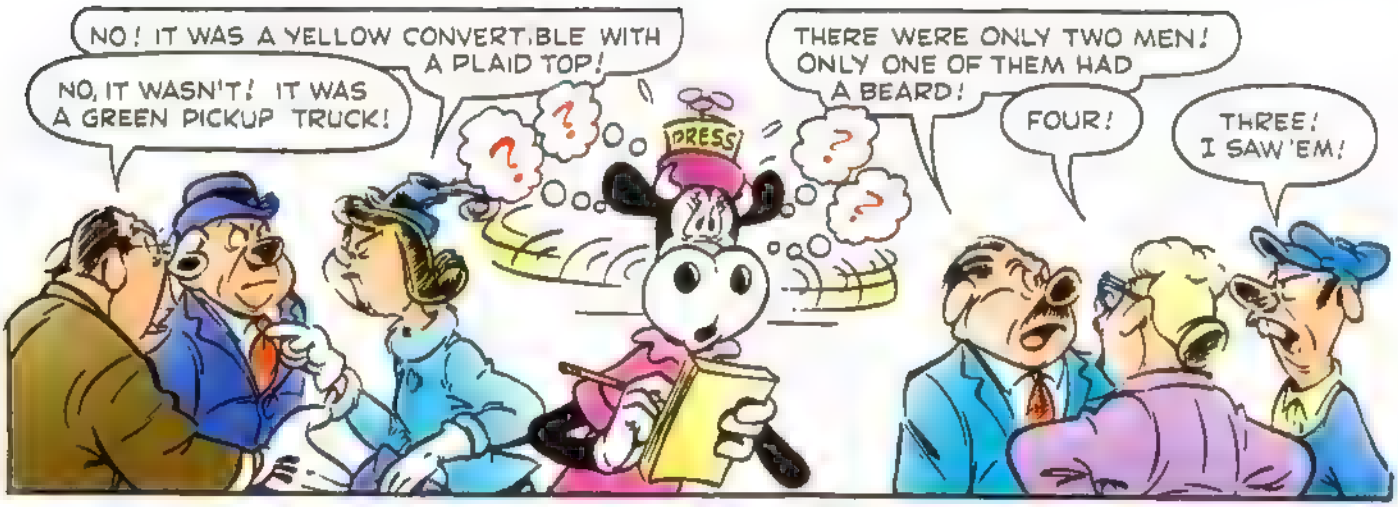

WELL, I WAS GOING TO THE PETUNIA SHOW, BUT THIS SOUNDS MORE EXCITING!
LET'S SEE...NOTEBOOK, PENCILS...AND OH, YES... PRESS CARD!
THERE! ALL SET!
WHAT'S YOUR ASSIGNMENT?
PRESS
OH, THE WHOLE TOWN IS MY BEAT, AS REPORTERS SAY! I JUST GO AROUND AND LOOK FOR NEWS!
HMM! AND SUPPOSE THERE ISN'T ANY NEWS?
WHY, MINNIE! WE REPORTERS HAVE AN INSTINCT FOR FINDING NEWS! LOTS OF THINGS GO ON AROUND HERE THAT THE AVERAGE PERSON DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE!
PRESS
?
YOU MEAN LIKE THAT SHED BURNING OVER THERE?
HUH? HUH? WHAT?
FIRE ALARM
WHY, CERTAINLY! SEE WHAT I MEAN? COME ON!
I'LL TURN IN THE ALARM!
PRE
DEAR ME! HERE'S A BUCKET OF WATER! WHY DON'T I TRY AND PUT THE FIRE OUT?
I CAN SEE THE STORY NOW! 'DARING REPORTER HELPS PUT OUT FIERCE FIRE"!
PRESS

I MIGHT EVEN GET MY NAME IN THE PAPER!
FWOOM!
GRACIOUS!
?
WHAT HAPPENED?
I-I DON'T KNOW! I THREW A BUCKET OF WATER, AND FWOOM!
YOU MEAN, YOU THREW THAT BUCKET OF PAINT THINNER?
OH, FOR GOODNESS' SAKES! I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT!
PAINT THINNER
OH, DON'T WORRY! HERE COMES THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!
PRESS
WHEEEEEE
ER... LET'S GO!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO STICK AROUND AND GET THE FACTS FOR YOUR STORY?
I DON'T THINK THE FACTS WOULD LOOK SO GOOD IN PRINT!
I CAN SEE THE STORY NOW! "STUPID REPORTER HELPS BURN DOWN SHED!"
I SEE YOUR POINT!
PRESS
OH, WELL! REPORTERS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE FIREMEN, ANYWAY! DON'T BE DISCOURAGED!
YOU'RE RIGHT! I'VE LEARNED AN IMPORTANT LESSON!
PRESS


NEXT TIME I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYTHING DISTRACT ME FROM GETTING THE STORY!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
I WILL CONCENTRATE ON GETTING THE FACTS– WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW!
SAY! I JUST REMEMBERED!
PRESS
I HAVE TO MAKE A PHONE CALL! I'LL BE RIGHT OUT!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL STAY OUT HERE AND WATCH FOR NEWS!
HELP!
EEK!
THUD!
CRASH!
HELP! THE SCAFFOLD ROPE BROKE WHILE I WAS PAINTING THE BUILDING!
OH, FOR GOODNESS' SAKES!
DRUGS
THIS WILL MAKE A WONDERFUL STORY! BUT FIRST I MUST GET THE FACTS!
WHAT IS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS, SIR?
?
FRED FINGLE, 222 POTLUCK ST.! HAVE SOMEBODY GO UP ON THE ROOF AND PULL ME UP!


IS THAT SPELLED F-I-N-G-A-L?
NO! F-I-N-G-L-E! HURRY! I'M LOSING MY GRIP!
WHAT'S UP, CLARA?
A PAINTER'S SCAFFOLD BROKE UP THERE! I'M GETTING THE STORY!
EEK!
HURRY! THE BIRDS ARE PESTERING ME NOW!
I'LL GET SOMEONE TO GO UP ON THE ROOF!
WHAT KIND OF BIRDS?
SHORTLY...
(WHEW!) AM I GLAD TO BE ON GOOD OL' TERRA FIRMA!
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT HAPPENED? I'M THE EDITOR OF THE PAPER ACROSS THE STREET!
HE WAS PAINTING UP THERE, AND...
??
PRESS
THE SCAFFOLD ROPE BROKE WHILE I WAS PAINTING THE BUILDING!
WHY, IT'S MR. PLATEN, MY BOSS!
I DARN NEAR LOST MY GRIP BECAUSE SOME SILLY DAME KEPT ASKING ME STUPID QUESTIONS!
!

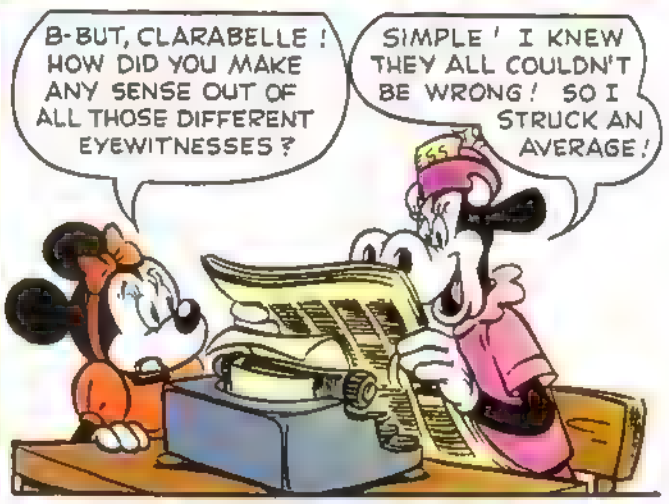

WHAT'S THE MATTER, CLARABELLE? DID YOU LOSE SOMETHING?
YES! MY PRIDE!
A BIT LATER...
OH, MINNIE! I'M SO DISCOURAGED! MY FIRST TWO NEWS STORIES, AND I GOOFED MISERABLY!
CHEER UP, CLARA!
THINK OF THE THINGS YOU'VE LEARNED SO FAR! BESIDES, YOU DO SEEM TO HAVE THE KNACK OF BEING AROUND WHEN THINGS HAPPEN!
OH, I SUPPOSE SO!
PRESS
GOODNESS GRACIOUS!
BRAANNNNG!
SCREEECH!
ROAR!
OH, DEAR! ANOTHER STORY!
HELP! POLICE! BANDITS!
BANK
COME ON! HERE'S YOUR BIG CHANCE!
THREE MEN WITH BEARDS JUST HELD US UP!
I'LL GET THIS DOWN! THREE MEN WITH BEARDS!
PRESS
NO, THEY WEREN'T WEARING BEARDS! AND THERE WERE FOUR OF THEM!
FOUR MEN WITHOUT BEARDS!
IT WAS THREE!
THEY MADE THEIR GETAWAY IN A BLACK SEDAN! I SAW IT SCREECH AROUND THE CORNER!
BANK

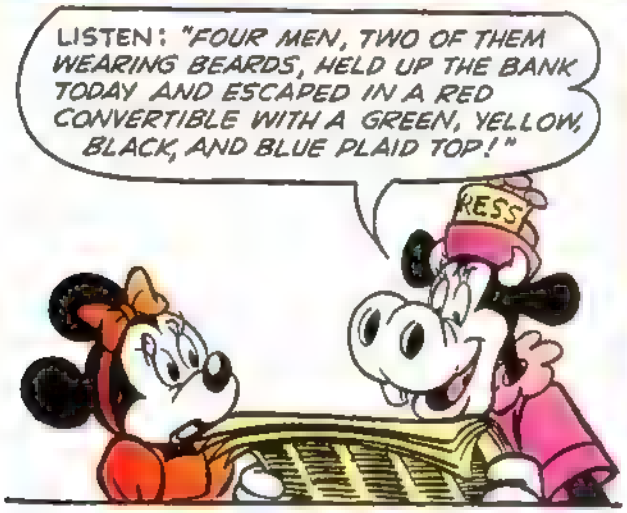

NO! IT WAS A YELLOW CONVERTIBLE WITH A PLAID TOP!
NO, IT WASN'T! IT WAS A GREEN PICKUP TRUCK!
PRESS
THERE WERE ONLY TWO MEN! ONLY ONE OF THEM HAD A BEARD!
FOUR!
THREE! I SAW 'EM!

BLUE CONVERTIBLE
YELLOW COUPE
PLAID TOP
GREEN TRUCK
BLACK SEDAN
RED
GOODNESS SAKES!
PRESS
BEARDS
NO BEARDS
TWO MEN
ONE
FOUR
FIVE

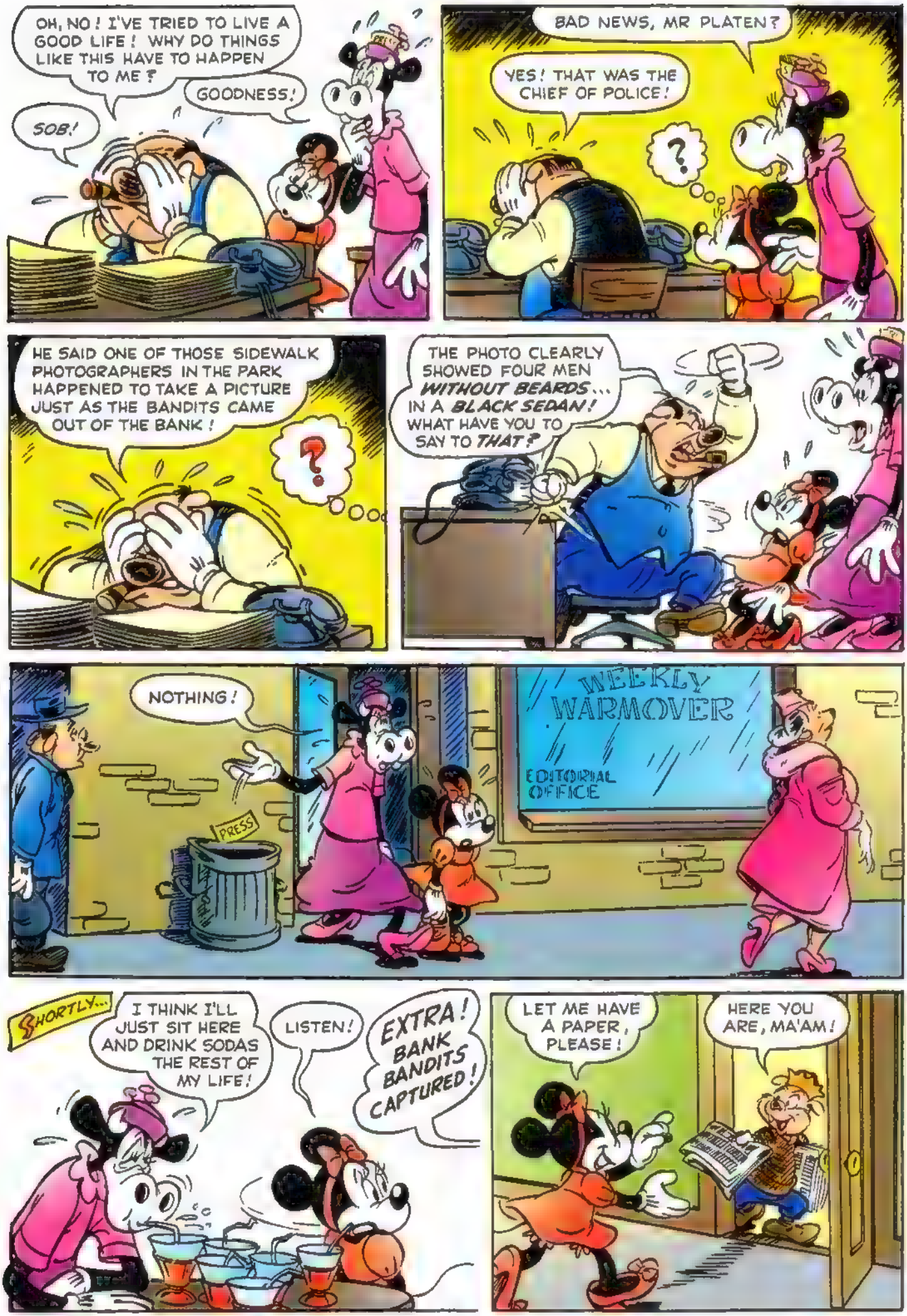
YOU'D BETTER GO TURN THIS STORY IN BEFORE YOU GET ANY MORE CONFUSED!
GOOD IDEA! THIS IS A SCOOP!

NOT TOO MUCH LATER...
HERE'S YOUR STORY! HOT OFF THE PRESS! THE PAPERS ARE ON THE STREETS ALREADY!
OH, DEAR!


B-BUT, CLARABELLE! HOW DID YOU MAKE ANY SENSE OUT OF ALL THOSE DIFFERENT EYEWITNESSES?
SIMPLE! I KNEW THEY ALL COULDN'T BE WRONG! SO I STRUCK AN AVERAGE!


LISTEN: "FOUR MEN, TWO OF THEM WEARING BEARDS, HELD UP THE BANK TODAY AND ESCAPED IN A RED CONVERTIBLE WITH A GREEN, YELLOW, BLACK, AND BLUE PLAID TOP!"
PRESS

HELLO, EDITOR PLATEN... WHAT? WHAT? WHAT?


OH, NO! I'VE TRIED TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE! WHY DO THINGS LIKE THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME?
GOODNESS!
SOB!
BAD NEWS, MR PLATEN?
YES! THAT WAS THE CHIEF OF POLICE!
?
HE SAID ONE OF THOSE SIDEWALK PHOTOGRAPHERS IN THE PARK HAPPENED TO TAKE A PICTURE JUST AS THE BANDITS CAME OUT OF THE BANK!
?
THE PHOTO CLEARLY SHOWED FOUR MEN *WITHOUT BEARDS*... IN A *BLACK SEDAN*! WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY TO *THAT*?
NOTHING!
PRESS
WEEKLY WARMOVER
EDITORIAL OFFICE
SHORTLY...
I THINK I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND DRINK SODAS THE REST OF MY LIFE!
LISTEN!
EXTRA! BANK BANDITS CAPTURED!
LET ME HAVE A PAPER, PLEASE!
HERE YOU ARE, MA'AM!

"THE BANDITS WERE CAPTURED THROUGH A TIP GIVEN BY A GAS STATION ATTENDANT WHO RECOGNIZED THEM FROM A DESCRIPTION WHICH APPEARED IN AN EARLIER EDITION OF THIS PAPER!"
WHY, THAT WAS MY STORY!
"TWO OF THE BANDITS HAD FALSE BEARDS AND WERE DRIVING A RED CONVERTIBLE WITH A GREEN, YELLOW, BLACK, AND BLUE PLAID TOP!
"THE BANDITS HAD ABANDONED THE BLACK SEDAN AND APPARENTLY SWITCHED TO THE CONVERTIBLE TO CONFUSE THE POLICE!"
PLOP!
CLARABELLE!
LATER...
YOU'RE A HEROINE, CLARABELLE! LISTEN! "BRILLIANT DEDUCTING BY REPORTER..."
(PSHAW!) IT WAS PURE LUCK AND YOU KNOW IT!
MATTER OF FACT, I'VE RESIGNED FROM THE PAPER! I DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE DOMESTIC LIFE!
REALLY?
YEP! I FIGURE IT'S BETTER TO PRESS CLOTHES THAN PRESS MY LUCK!

COMING IN AUGUST 2005

Walt Disney's

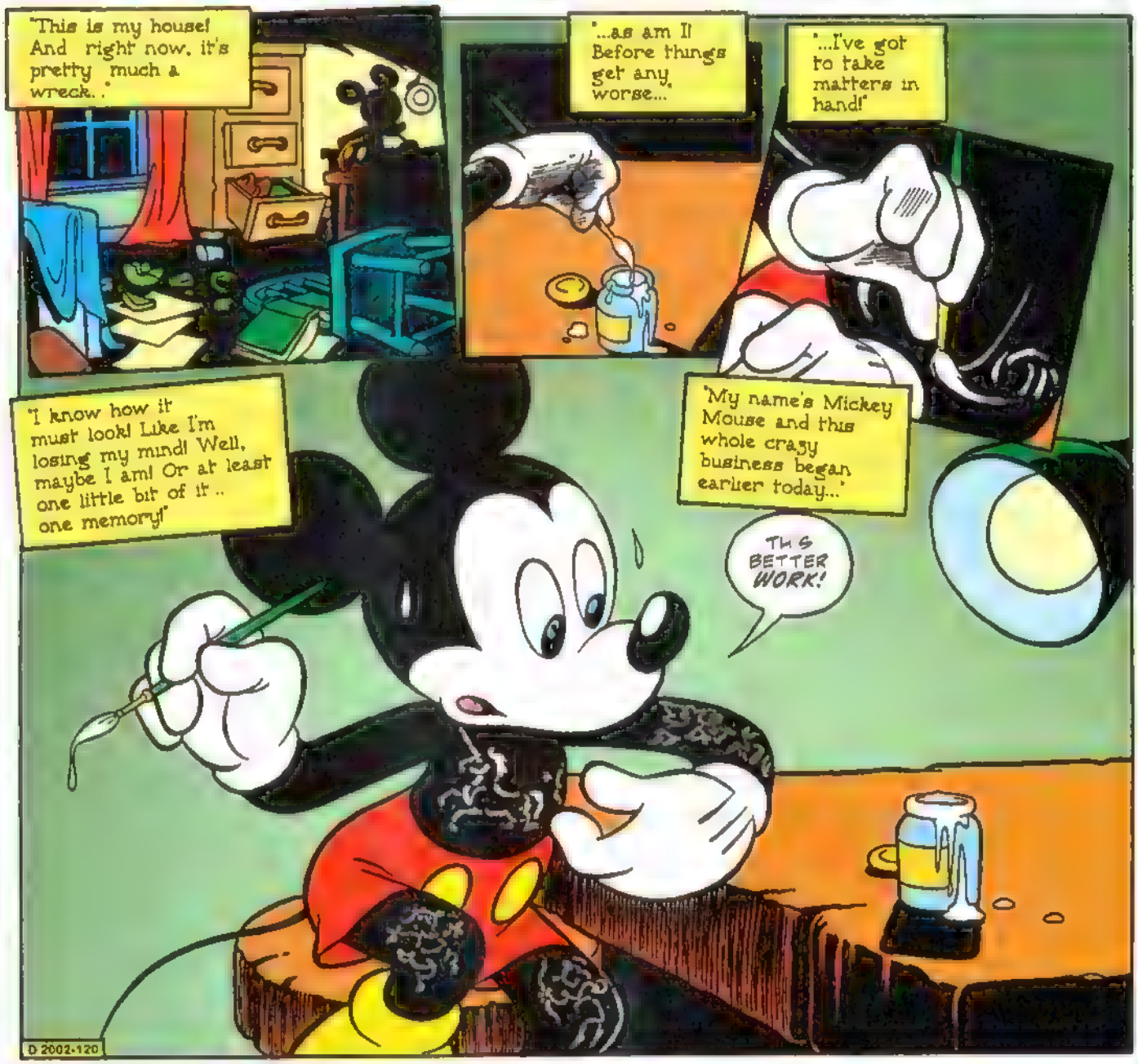
MICKEY MOUSE

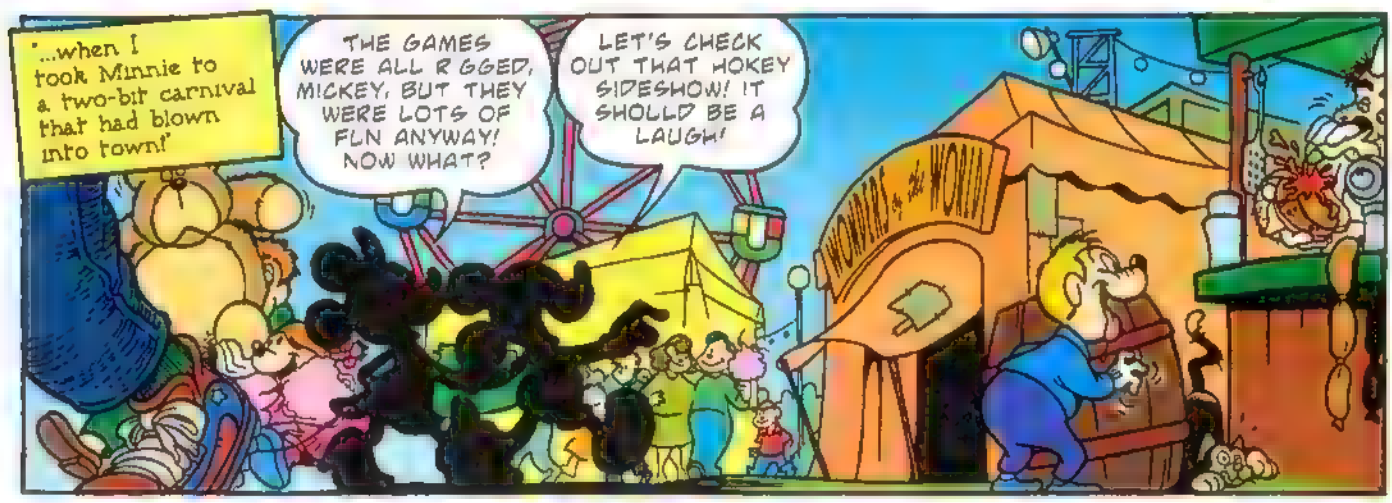
in

BLOTMAN

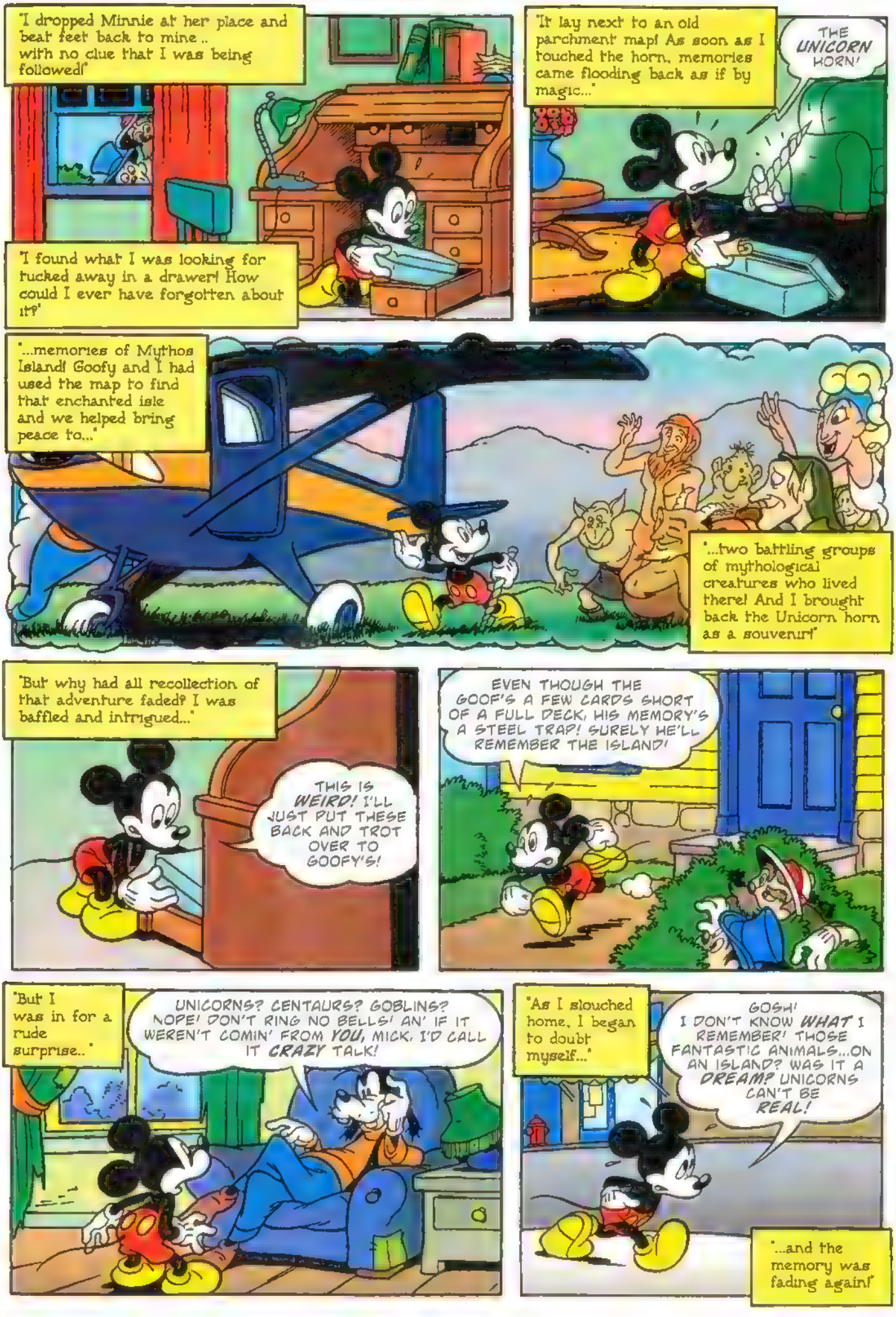
Walt Disney's MICKEY MOUSE in The Unicorn's Horn

MYTHOS ISLAND: CHAPTER 4


"This is my house! And right now, it's pretty much a wreck..."
"...as am I! Before things get any worse..."
"...I've got to take matters in hand!"
"I know how it must look! Like I'm losing my mind! Well, maybe I am! Or at least one little bit of it.. one memory!"
"My name's Mickey Mouse and this whole crazy business began earlier today..."
THIS BETTER WORK!
D 2002-120

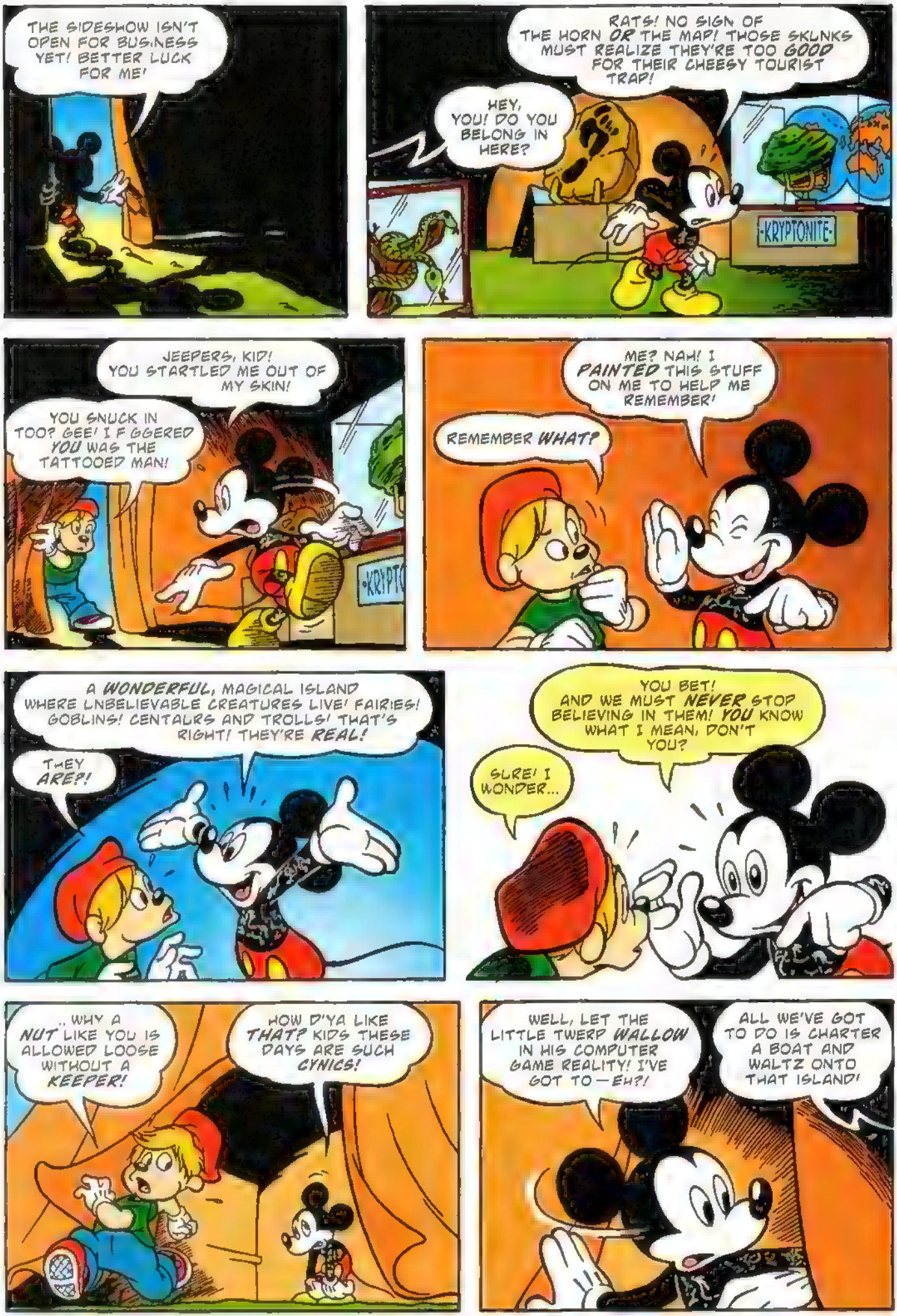

"...when I took Minnie to a two-bit carnival that had blown into town!"
THE GAMES WERE ALL RIGGED, MICKEY, BUT THEY WERE LOTS OF FUN ANYWAY! NOW WHAT?
LET'S CHECK OUT THAT HOKEY SIDESHOW! IT SHOULD BE A LAUGH!
WONDERS of the WORLD

THIS PLACE CLAIMS TO HAVE IT ALL! A BEARDED LADY! A BIGFOOT FOOTPRINT! A TWO-HEADED SNAKE ..
AN INSULT TO MY INTELLIGENCE! COME ON! LET'S GET OUT OF THIS SLEAZY GYP-JOINT AND NEVER COME BACK!
AS IF THAT CRUMMY, CHEESEBALL HORN WAS THE REAL THING?!
JEEPERS! WONDER WHAT HE'S SO TEE'D OFF ABOUT?
THIS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, I GUESS!
GENUINE UNICORN HORN
THAT PHONY HORN'S DRIVING CUSTOMERS AWAY, CHEATUM!
HSST! TAKE A GANDER AT THE RUBE WHO JUST WANDERED IN, PHILCHER! IT'S THAT MOUSE WHO'S MADE TROUBLE FOR US IN THE PAST!
GOODNESS GRACIOUS! LOOK AT THAT AWFUL THING! HOW COULD THEY EXPECT ANYONE TO ACCEPT IT AS A GENUINE UNICORN HORN?
..UNICORN HORN? OMIGOSH! A UNICORN HORN!
HORN
I CLEAN FORGOT, BUT THIS FAKE TRIGGERED MY MEMORY! I HAVE ONE! A GORGEOUS PEARLY WHITE ONE! OPALESCENT! DAZZLING!
MICKEY MOUSE! WHATEVER ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
A UNICORN HORN! A REAL, HONEST- TO-GOSH UNICORN HORN! IT'S SITTING IN MY HOUSE RIGHT NOW! YOU GOTTA SEE IT, MIN!
HOW COULD I LET IT SLIP MY MIND?! I'VE GOT TO GET HOME!
AND SO DO I! BUT I HOPE YOU'LL LET ME SEE YOUR HORN TOMORROW!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?! THE RODENT SAYS HIS UNICORN HORN IS REAL!
AND EVEN IF IT ISN'T REAL, IT SOUNDS AS IF THAT HORN WAS IN THIS SIDESHOW, IT WOULDN'T DRIVE AWAY CUSTOMERS! TAIL THE MOUSE!

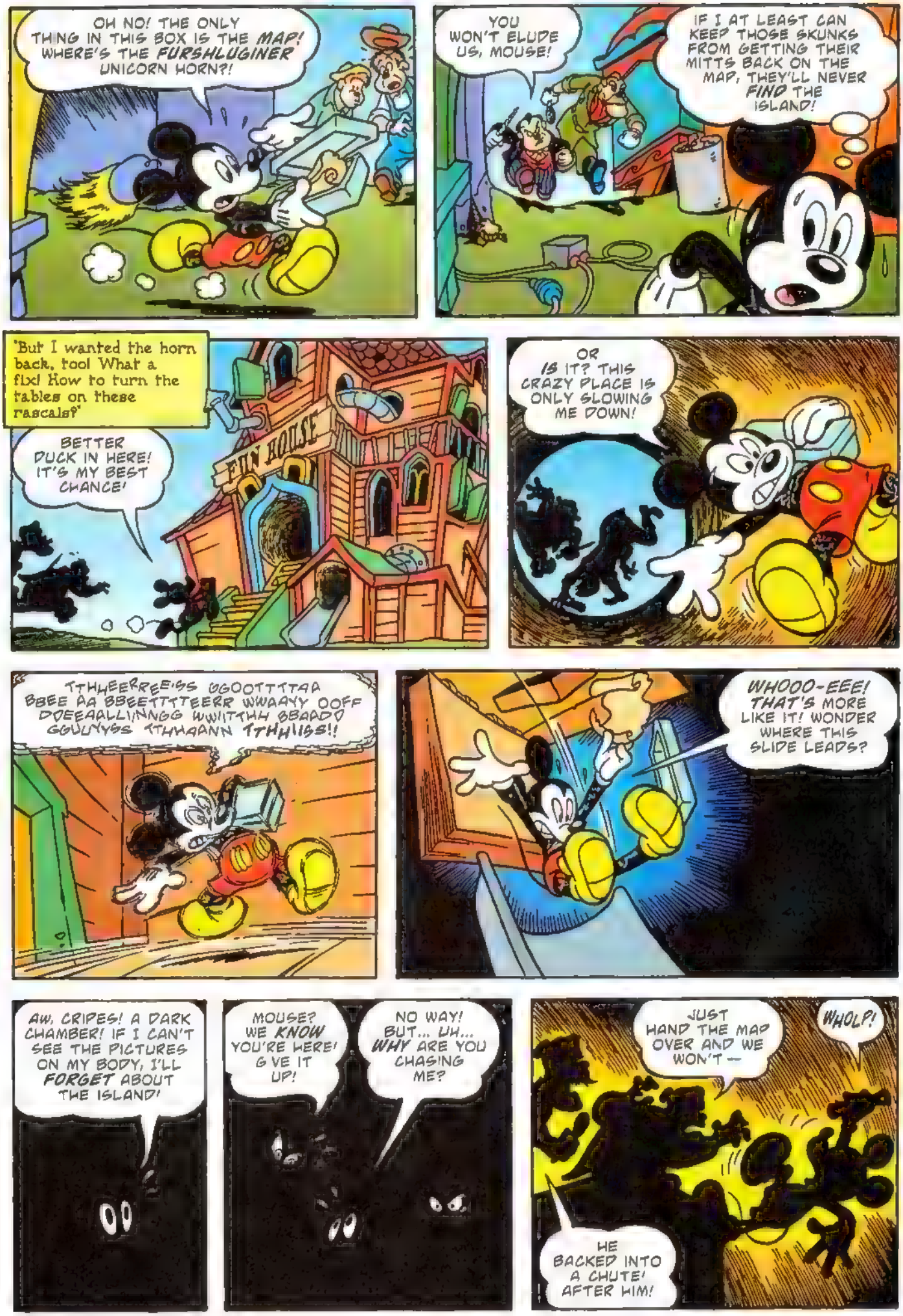

"I dropped Minnie at her place and beat feet back to mine .. with no clue that I was being followed!"
"I found what I was looking for tucked away in a drawer! How could I ever have forgotten about it?"
"It lay next to an old parchment map! As soon as I touched the horn, memories came flooding back as if by magic..."
THE UNICORN HORN!
"...memories of Mythos Island! Goofy and I had used the map to find that enchanted isle and we helped bring peace to..."
"...two battling groups of mythological creatures who lived there! And I brought back the Unicorn horn as a souvenir!"
"But why had all recollection of that adventure faded? I was baffled and intrigued..."
THIS IS WEIRD! I'LL JUST PUT THESE BACK AND TROT OVER TO GOOFY'S!
EVEN THOUGH THE GOOF'S A FEW CARDS SHORT OF A FULL DECK, HIS MEMORY'S A STEEL TRAP! SURELY HE'LL REMEMBER THE ISLAND!
"But I was in for a rude surprise.."
UNICORNS? CENTAURS? GOBLINS? NOPE! DON'T RING NO BELLS! AN' IF IT WEREN'T COMIN' FROM YOU, MICK, I'D CALL IT CRAZY TALK!
"As I slouched home, I began to doubt myself..."
GOSH! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I REMEMBER! THOSE FANTASTIC ANIMALS...ON AN ISLAND? WAS IT A DREAM? UNICORNS CAN'T BE REAL!
"...and the memory was fading again!"

"Meanwhile, my house was being ransacked!"
OF COURSE UNICORNS DON'T EXIST, BUT THIS IS A MUCH BETTER COUNTERFEIT THAN OURS!
IT MAY BE A PHONY, BUT IT'S A BEAUTIFUL PHONY THAT'LL BRING IN THE RUBES! GRAB IT!
HOLD THE PHONE, PHILCHER! ENERGY! SURGING FROM THE DINGUS! SOMEHOW MAKING ME CERTAIN IT'S REAL!
ME, TOO! THE MAP! IF THE HORN CAME FROM THIS ISLAND, MAYBE WE CAN CAPTURE A REAL UNICORN TO EXHIBIT!
HEY!
"I recognized the crooks at once! But what struck me more was the sight of the horn in their hands!"
PHILCHER AND CHEATUM?! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
"Memories of the island came cascading back again! In a flash, I put it all together, but I'd have to figure out that mystery..."
OF COURSE! FOR SOME REASON, MY RECOLLECTION OF THE ISLAND FADES WITHOUT THAT HORN TO JOG MY MEMORY!
"...later! Now I had a couple of goons to take care of and..."
YOU RATS! I'LL TEACH YOU TO BREAK INTO MY HOME!
"...I put up a good fight!"
SOCK!
"But it was two against one and..."
"...I got clobbered!"
MISERABLE PIPSQUEAK! TAKE THAT!
SMAASH!
"They bolted, taking the goods with them!"
OOOOOO! I'LL SOON FORGET EVERYTHING! GOTTA DO SOMETHING TO MAKE MYSELF REMEMBER...

"And that's when I get this idea! See, I haven't lost my mind...
IT WORKS, ALL RIGHT! AS LONG AS I CAN SEE MY BODY, I'LL REMEMBER THE ISLAND CLEARLY! NOW TO CATCH THOSE HORN STEALING BUMS!
"I race to the fairgrounds, but I'm too late..."
AW, CRIPES! THE CARNIVAL HAS PULLED UP STAKES AND BLOWN OUT OF TOWN! HOW WILL I EVER FIND IT?!
"I'm feeling low... until..."
WHAT LUCK! A FLIER WITH THE CARNIVAL'S SCHEDULE!
"No sleep for me tonight! It's a long drive to Flyspeck!"
"And come dawn..."
THE CARNIVAL! GETTING READY FOR ANOTHER DAY OF FLEECING RUBES!
"I wait until the gates open and slip in..."
OH! LOOK AT THAT PECULIAR PERSON!
HUMPH! PROBABLY PART OF THE FREAK SHOW!
THIS IS IT! PHILCHER AND CHEATUM'S TENT! LET'S HOPE THEY'VE PUT THE UNICORN HORN ON DISPLAY IN HERE!
WONDERS of the WORLD


THE SIDESHOW ISN'T OPEN FOR BUSINESS YET! BETTER LUCK FOR ME!
RATS! NO SIGN OF THE HORN OR THE MAP! THOSE SKUNKS MUST REALIZE THEY'RE TOO GOOD FOR THEIR CHEESY TOURIST TRAP!
HEY, YOU! DO YOU BELONG IN HERE?
·KRYPTONITE·
JEEPERS, KID! YOU STARTLED ME OUT OF MY SKIN!
YOU SNUCK IN TOO? GEE! I FIGURED YOU WAS THE TATTOOED MAN!
·KRYPT
ME? NAH! I PAINTED THIS STUFF ON ME TO HELP ME REMEMBER!
REMEMBER WHAT?
A WONDERFUL, MAGICAL ISLAND WHERE UNBELIEVABLE CREATURES LIVE! FAIRIES! GOBLINS! CENTAURS AND TROLLS! THAT'S RIGHT! THEY'RE REAL!
THEY ARE?!
YOU BET! AND WE MUST NEVER STOP BELIEVING IN THEM! YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, DON'T YOU?
SURE! I WONDER...
.. WHY A NUT LIKE YOU IS ALLOWED LOOSE WITHOUT A KEEPER!
HOW D'YA LIKE THAT? KIDS THESE DAYS ARE SUCH CYNICS!
WELL, LET THE LITTLE TWERP WALLOW IN HIS COMPUTER GAME REALITY! I'VE GOT TO — EH?!
ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS CHARTER A BOAT AND WALTZ ONTO THAT ISLAND!

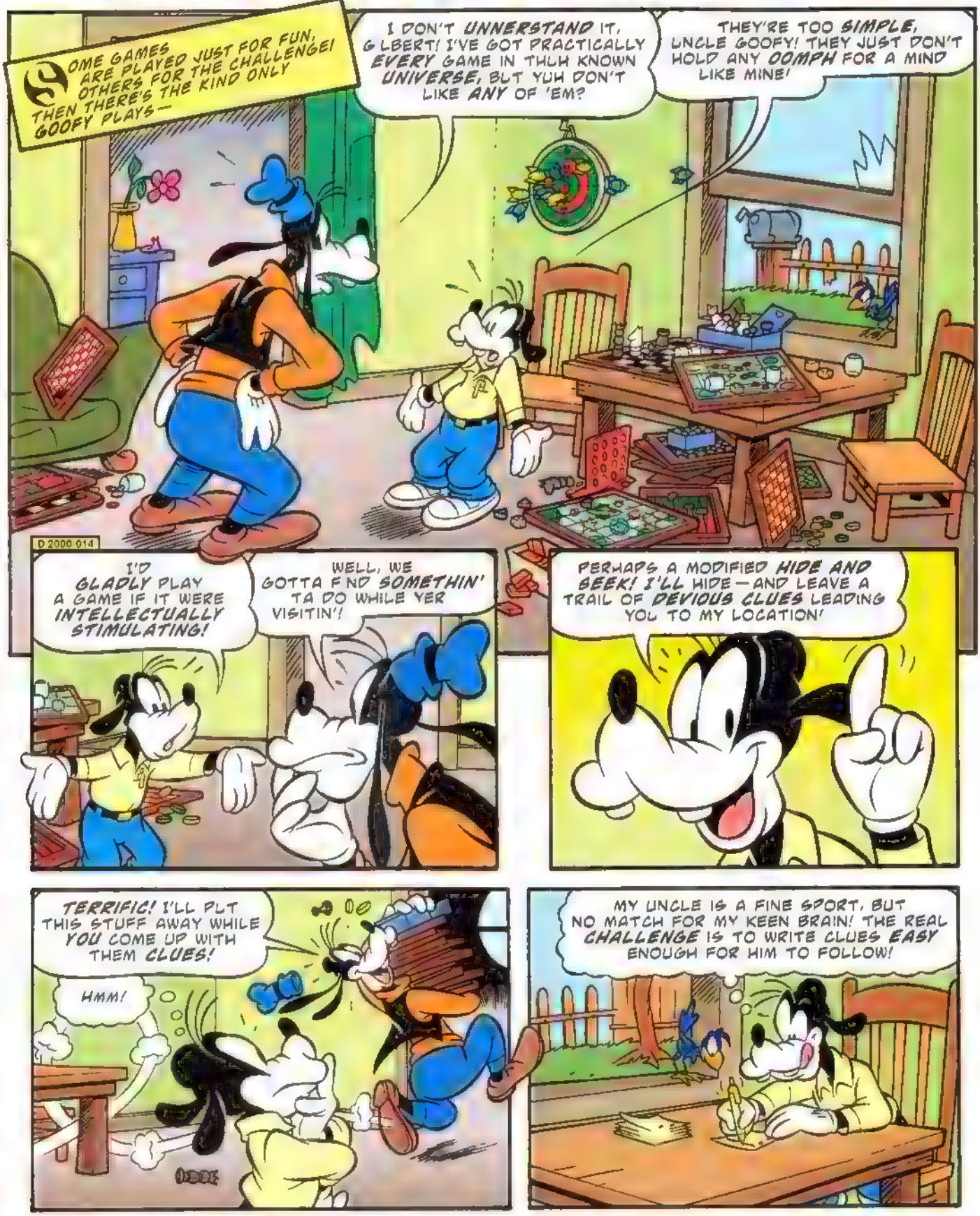
AND WHEN WE DO, WE'LL NAB AN ATTRACTION THAT'LL KNOCK THE SUCKERS' SOCKS OFF!
THOSE CRUDS WILL RUIN THE ISLAND IF THEY FIND IT! HOW THE HECK DO I STOP THEM?
PERFORMERS' WARDROBE
SAY! IT'S FULL OF COSTUMES AND MAKE-UP! JUST WHAT I NEED!
HERE'S TO OUR PLAN! IT'LL MAKE US RICH!
DON'T GET UP, GENTLEMEN! IT'S JUST ME, THE BEARDED LADY! I'M LOOKING FOR... EH... MY ELECTRIC TRIMMER! HAVE YOU SEEN IT?
THIS IS A PRIVATE TRAILER, MADAM! GET OUT!
EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO DO! AS SOON AS I FIND MY RAZOR!
SHEESH! I CAN'T SEE MY BODY IN THIS OUTFIT! IT'S SECONDS BEFORE I FORGET WHAT I'M AFTER! MY MIND'S GETTING FUZZY ALREADY!
AH! I BELIEVE I LEFT IT IN THIS BOX! THANKS, GENTS, AND TOODLE-OO!
AWP! STOP HER!
:GASP!: IT'S THE RODENT! GET HIM!
TOO LATE, BOZOS! I'M HISTORY!
RRRRIP!


OH NO! THE ONLY THING IN THIS BOX IS THE MAP! WHERE'S THE FURSHLUGINER UNICORN HORN?!
YOU WON'T ELUDE US, MOUSE!
IF I AT LEAST CAN KEEP THOSE SKUNKS FROM GETTING THEIR MITTS BACK ON THE MAP, THEY'LL NEVER FIND THE ISLAND!
'But I wanted the horn back, too! What a fix! How to turn the tables on these rascals?'
BETTER DUCK IN HERE! IT'S MY BEST CHANCE!
FUN HOUSE
OR IS IT? THIS CRAZY PLACE IS ONLY SLOWING ME DOWN!
TTHHEERREE'SS OOOTTTTAA BBEE AA BBEETTTTEERR WWAAYY OOFF DDEEAALLIINNGG WWIITTHH BBAADD GGUUYYSS ATHHAANN TTHHISS!!
WHOOO-EEE! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! WONDER WHERE THIS SLIDE LEADS?
AW, CRIPES! A DARK CHAMBER! IF I CAN'T SEE THE PICTURES ON MY BODY, I'LL FORGET ABOUT THE ISLAND!
MOUSE? WE KNOW YOU'RE HERE! GIVE IT UP!
NO WAY! BUT... UH... WHY ARE YOU CHASING ME?
JUST HAND THE MAP OVER AND WE WON'T --
WHOLP!
HE BACKED INTO A CHUTE! AFTER HIM!

HUH?! A REFLECTION? OF ME? HOT DOG! I'M BEGINNING TO REMEMBER EVERY-THING!
HURFF! THIS IS IT, RUBE!
OOOF! TIME TO FACE THE MUSIC!
OH YEAH?!
LET'S SEE YOU TRY IT!
COME AND GET ME, YOU GOONS!
DO YOUR WORST!
GOOD GRAVY, PHLCHER! WE'VE STUMBLED INTO THE HALL OF MIRRORS!
WHO CARES? THE RODENT'S NUMBER IS UP!
GARRRRGH! THIS ONE'S NOT HIM!
AW! TOUGH LUCK CLUCK!
CRASH!
NEITHER IS THIS ONE!
HE FOOLED ME ONCE BUT NEVER AGAIN! I SEE HIM!
CRUNCH!

HAH! WE'VE GOT YOU CORNERED NOW, MISERABLE MEDDLER!
HEE HEE! YOU'RE SURROUNDED, RUBE! PREPARE TO RELINQUISH THE MAP! READY, PHILCHER?!
GET SET...
N-OWWW!!
OOOOCH!!!
KUH-LUNNK!
KA-LONKK!
FOOLED BY ANOTHER REFLECTION! THERE'S A SUCKER BORN EVERY MINUTE!
WHILE THESE CRUMBS ARE DOWN FOR THE COUNT, I'LL JUST RELIEVE THEM OF THE UNICORN HORN!
YESSIR! WITHOUT THE HORN AND THE MAP THOSE BONEHEADS WILL SOON FORGET EVERYTHING! BUT I WON'T!
CARNIVAL
'And so, all's well that ends well! But back at home, I've got a lot on my mind...'
UGH! THIS PAINT DOESN'T COME OFF EASY! BUT AS SOON AS I'M CLEAN, I'M GOING TO ORGANIZE A LITTLE EXPEDITION TO MYTHOS ISLAND...
...AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF ONE HUMONGOUS MYSTERY!

Walt Disney's GOOFY in CONTEST of WITS


SOME GAMES ARE PLAYED JUST FOR FUN, OTHERS FOR THE CHALLENGE! THEN THERE'S THE KIND ONLY GOOFY PLAYS—
I DON'T UNNERSTAND IT, GILBERT! I'VE GOT PRACTICALLY EVERY GAME IN THUH KNOWN UNIVERSE, BUT YUH DON'T LIKE ANY OF 'EM?
THEY'RE TOO SIMPLE, UNCLE GOOFY! THEY JUST DON'T HOLD ANY OOMPH FOR A MIND LIKE MINE!
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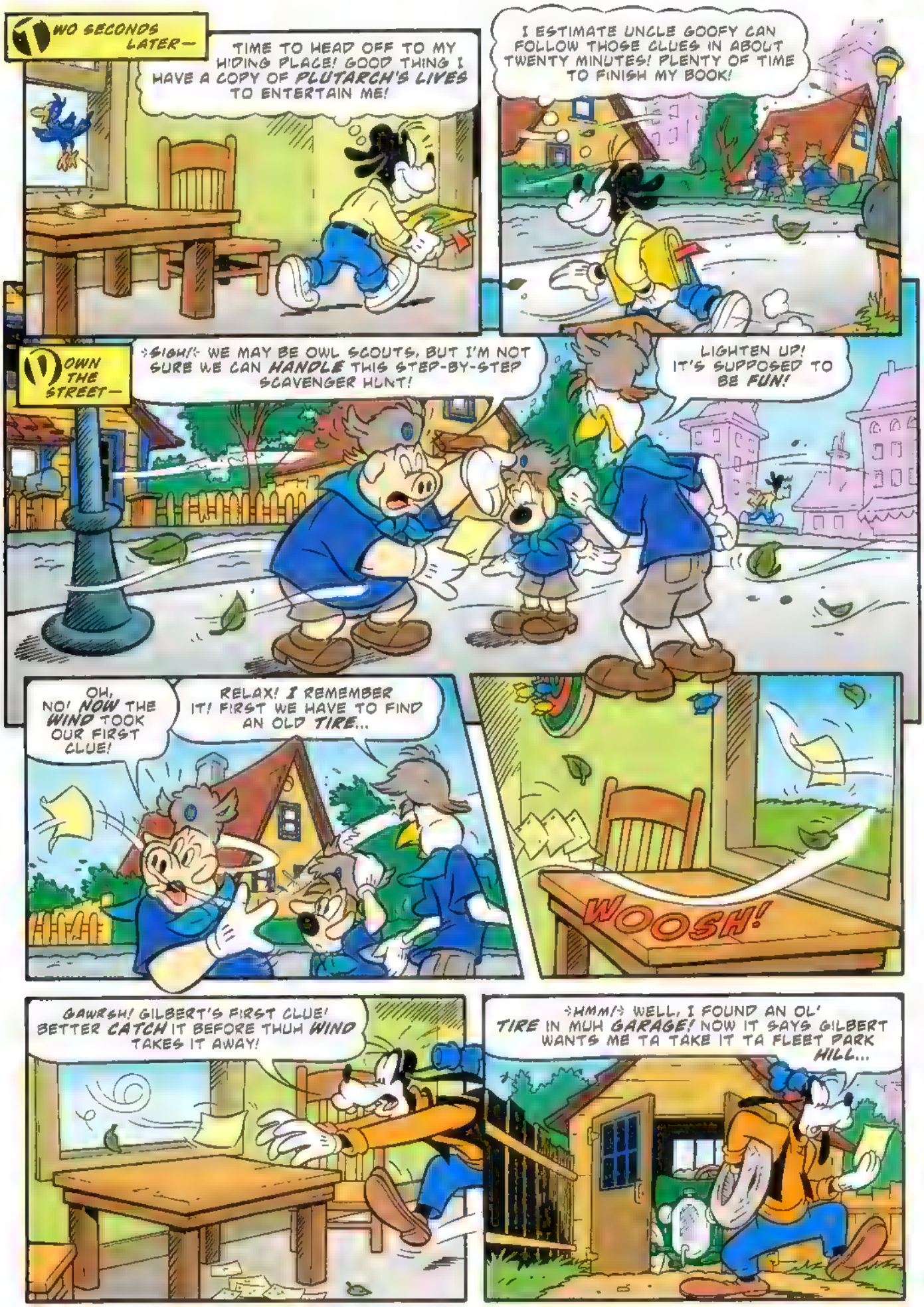
I'D GLADLY PLAY A GAME IF IT WERE INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING!
WELL, WE GOTTA FIND SOMETHIN' TA DO WHILE YER VISITIN'!
PERHAPS A MODIFIED HIDE AND SEEK! I'LL HIDE—AND LEAVE A TRAIL OF DEVIOUS CLUES LEADING YOU TO MY LOCATION!
TERRIFIC! I'LL PUT THIS STUFF AWAY WHILE YOU COME UP WITH THEM CLUES!
HMM!
MY UNCLE IS A FINE SPORT, BUT NO MATCH FOR MY KEEN BRAIN! THE REAL CHALLENGE IS TO WRITE CLUES EASY ENOUGH FOR HIM TO FOLLOW!


TWO SECONDS LATER—
TIME TO HEAD OFF TO MY HIDING PLACE! GOOD THING I HAVE A COPY OF PLUTARCH'S LIVES TO ENTERTAIN ME!
I ESTIMATE UNCLE GOOFY CAN FOLLOW THOSE CLUES IN ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES! PLENTY OF TIME TO FINISH MY BOOK!
DOWN THE STREET—
SIGH! WE MAY BE OWL SCOUTS, BUT I'M NOT SURE WE CAN HANDLE THIS STEP-BY-STEP SCAVENGER HUNT!
LIGHTEN UP! IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE FUN!
OH, NO! NOW THE WIND TOOK OUR FIRST CLUE!
RELAX! I REMEMBER IT! FIRST WE HAVE TO FIND AN OLD TIRE...
WOOSH!
GAWRSH! GILBERT'S FIRST CLUE! BETTER CATCH IT BEFORE THUH WIND TAKES IT AWAY!
HMM! WELL, I FOUND AN OL' TIRE IN MUH GARAGE! NOW IT SAYS GILBERT WANTS ME TA TAKE IT TA FLEET PARK HILL...

"...WHERE YUH WILL FIND YER SECOND CLUE ON A TREE!" BOY, THAT GILBERT MOVES FAST FER A LITTLE GUY!
"ROLL YER TIRE DUE WEST DOWN THUH HILL, BUT BE CAREFUL TO KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL!" NEAT HANDWRITIN', GILBERT! ALMOST LIKE IT'S TYPED OR SOMETHIN'!
SO LET'S SEE! THUH SUN SETS IN THE EAST AN' IS THUH BEST IN THE WEST! OR IS THAT THUH OTHER WAY—
-OOOPS!-
WHOOP! WHOOP! WHOOP!
-ACK!-

WELL, I GUESS THAT WAS WEST!
THERE'S A NEW CLUE HERE, SAYIN' TA HANG THUH TIRE ON THE SWORD O' THIS STATUE—AN' GO WHERE THUH RESULTIN' SHADOW POINTS!
AW, GILBERT—NO FAIR! NOW HOW IN THUH HECK AM I SUPPOSED TO GET WAY UP THERE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THUH LITTLE FELLOW'S GOT ME LICKED ALREADY! IT'S DOWNRIGHT EMBARRASSING!
WHACK!
BOING!
WHUNK!
YEE-HAW! KIND OF A SWORD-STROKE O' LUCK!
NOW I'M OFF TO THET AD NAUSEUM—I MEAN, GYMNASIUM!
LOOK! A TIRE IS ALREADY THERE!
OUR SCOUTMASTER SAID WE'D GET SOME HELP IF WE HAD TROUBLE! I GUESS THAT'S THE HELP!
JAUNTY JERRY'S GYM

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU FOLLOWED THE CLUES TO GET HERE? AREN'T YOU A LITTLE OLD FOR THIS?
TOO OLD? DON'T YOU EVER PLAY WITH YOUR FAMILY?
OKAY, THEN! LET'S PLAY!
AWP! BUT I HARDLY KNOW YUH!
NO PROBLEM! BY THE TIME YOU FINISH THIS OBSTACLE COURSE, YOU WON'T REMEMBER THE PEOPLE YOU DO KNOW!
EEP! ECK! OOK! ACK!
I CAN'T WAIT TA FIND GILBERT, JUST SO'S I CAN GIT MUH HANDS ON 'IM FER—
YOICKS!
IMPRESSIVE! YOU'VE SET A NEW RECORD! NOW YOU CAN READ YOUR FINAL CLUE!

GILBERT SAID TA FIND "THUH MOST USEFUL PIECE O' JUNK HERE"! I KIN SEE WHY CHECKERS WAS A LITTLE SLOW FOR HIM!
ME, I'D BE SATISFIED WITH A GAME THAT GIVES YUH SOMETHIN' TA EAT!
HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO FIND SOMETHING USEFUL HERE?
DON'T GIVE UP! DIG IN AND GET STARTED! WE'LL FIND IT!
I DUNNO WHY YOU'RE HELPIN' ME, FELLAS, BUT YUH REALLY SHOULDN'T! I DON'T WANT GILBERT THINKIN' I CHEATED—
WAIT! I GOT IT! IF YER HUNGRY, AND GILBERT KNOWS I ALWAYS AM...
...THUH MOST USEFUL PIECE O' JUNK IS A TOASTER! WHUT A CARD, THAT GILBERT!
:GRUNT!: C'MON OUT, YUH USEFUL PIECE O' GARBAGE! I GOTCHA!
YANK!
:HMM!: NO NEW NOTE BEHIND THUH TOASTER! MAYBE IT AIN'T THUH USEFUL CLUE—MAYBE GILBERT'S GOT ME BEAT!
OF COURSE IT'S NO CLUE! IT'S AN AVA-LANCHE!
RUN!
RUMBLE

MUCH, MUCH LATER—
SIGH! I ADMIT IT! I *AM* LICKED! AT LEAST I FOUND A *COMFY* PLACE TO REST MUH WEARY *BONES!*
SAY! BEIN' COMFY MAKES THIS BENCH PRETTY *USEFUL!* I WONDER...
HAW! LOOK *HERE!* A BIG FAT *GIFT CERTIFICATE* FOR *HARRY'S HASH AN' BURGERS!*
MUST BE GILBERT'S WAY OF SAYIN' HE'LL BE *FOUND* BACK *HOME*, WAIT N' FOR *DINNER*...
...AN' HE MUST WANT *GUESTS!* THIS CERTIFICATE'S ENOUGH TA FEED AN ARMY!
IT'S BEEN *FOUR HOURS!* EVEN *UNCLE GOOFY* SHOULD HAVE LOCATED ME BY *NOW!* I WONDER IF HE'S BACK HERE-
GILBERT! *FOUND* YUH!
UNCLE GOOFY! *WHAT?!*
I ADMIT THERE WAS SOME *TOUGH GOIN'* THERE, GILBERT—BUT *I WON!* YUH MUST NOT BE AS SMART AS YUH THINK!

HULK
ALEX ROSS
MINI HEAD BUST
DIAMOND SELECT TOYS & DYNAMIC FORCES, INC. HAVE JOINED FORCES TO PRESENT THIS COOL, AFFORDABLE COLLECTIBLE BASED ON DYNAMIC FORCES' FULL-SIZED HULK™ BUST. DESIGNED BY ALEX ROSS AND SCULPTED BY MIKE HILL, THIS BUST MEASURES APPROXIMATELY 5" TALL AND WILL BE THE PRIDE OF YOUR COLLECTION! INCLUDES HAND-NUMBERED, FULL-COLOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY AS WELL AS NUMBERING ON THE BOX AND THE PIECE ITSELF!
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Walt Disney's DONALD DUCK in KNIGHT RIDER

DONALD HAS A NEW JOB AT UNCLE SCROOGE'S USED CAR LOT!
PHOOEY! WASH, WASH— ALL I DO IS WASH! WHEN UNCLE SCROOGE TOLD ME I HAD A SHINING FUTURE, I DIDN'T THINK HE MEANT MAKING JALOPIES SPARKLE!
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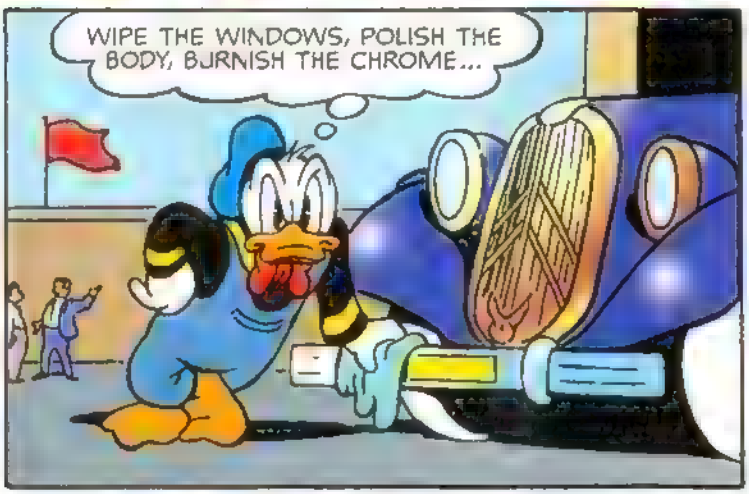
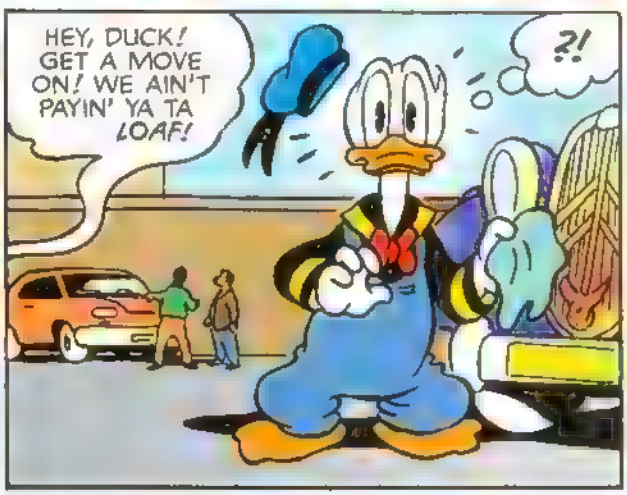
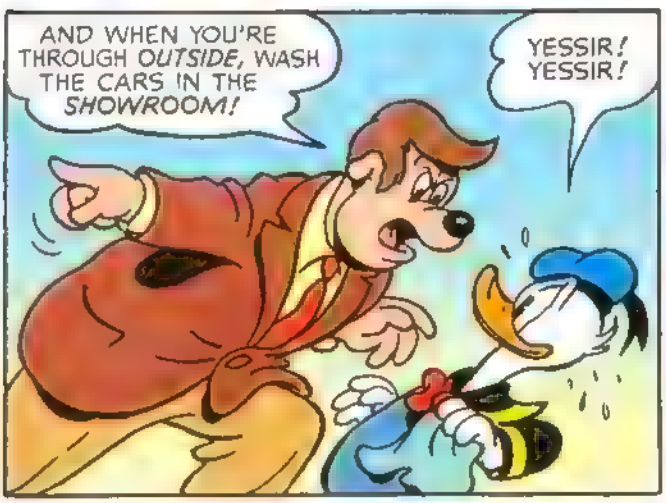
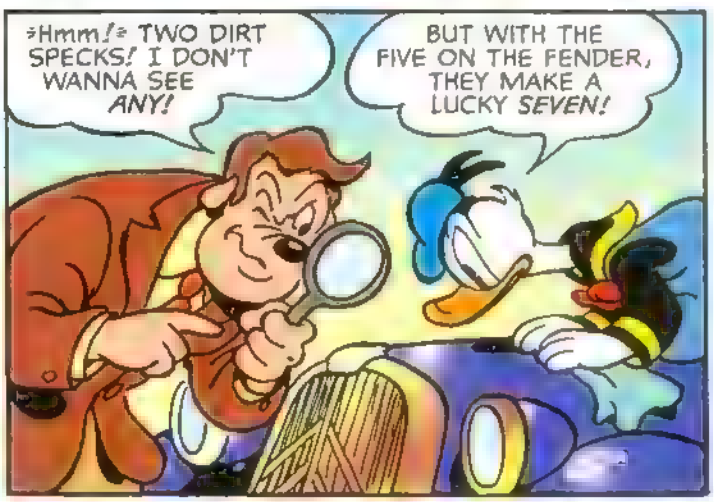
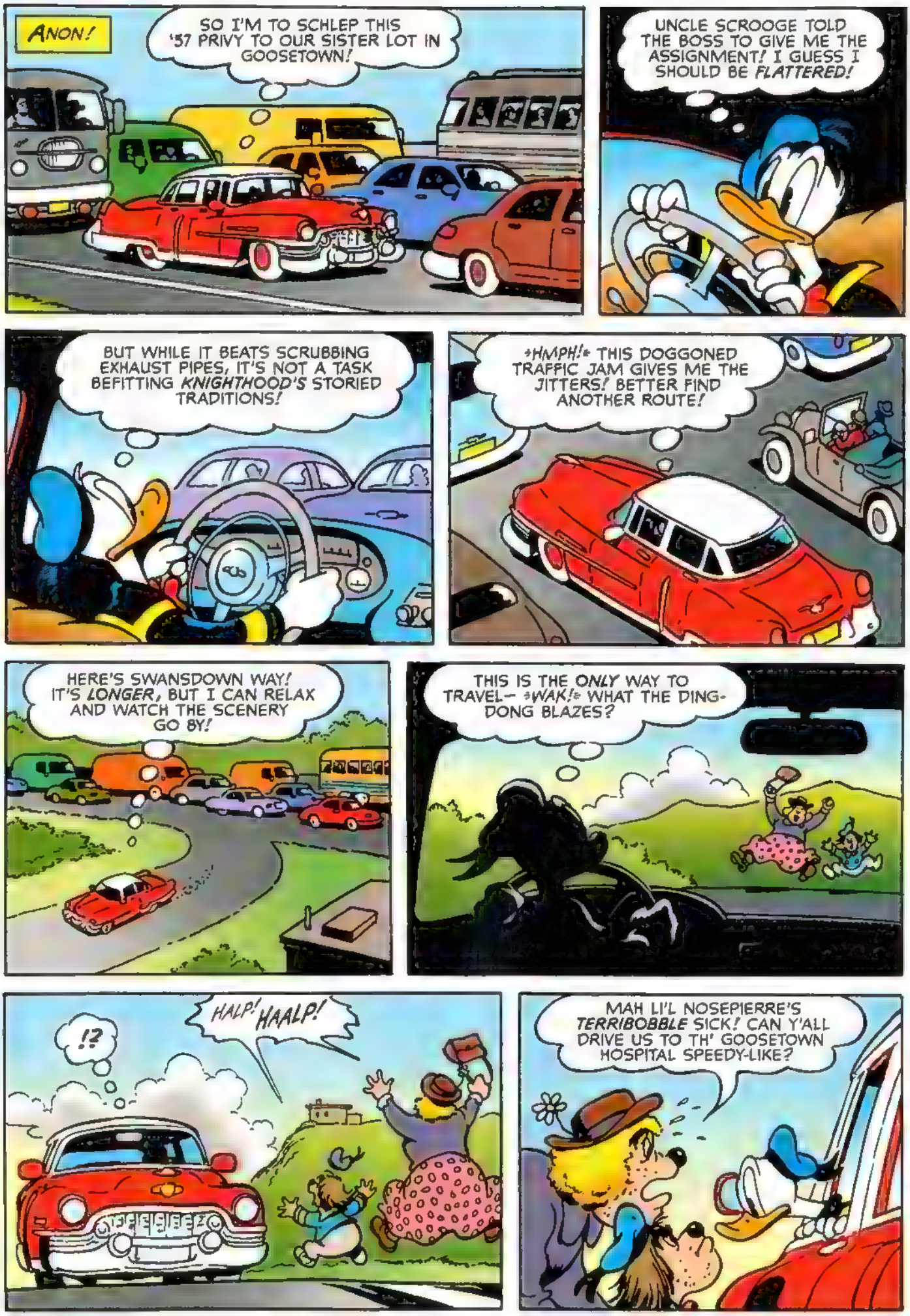






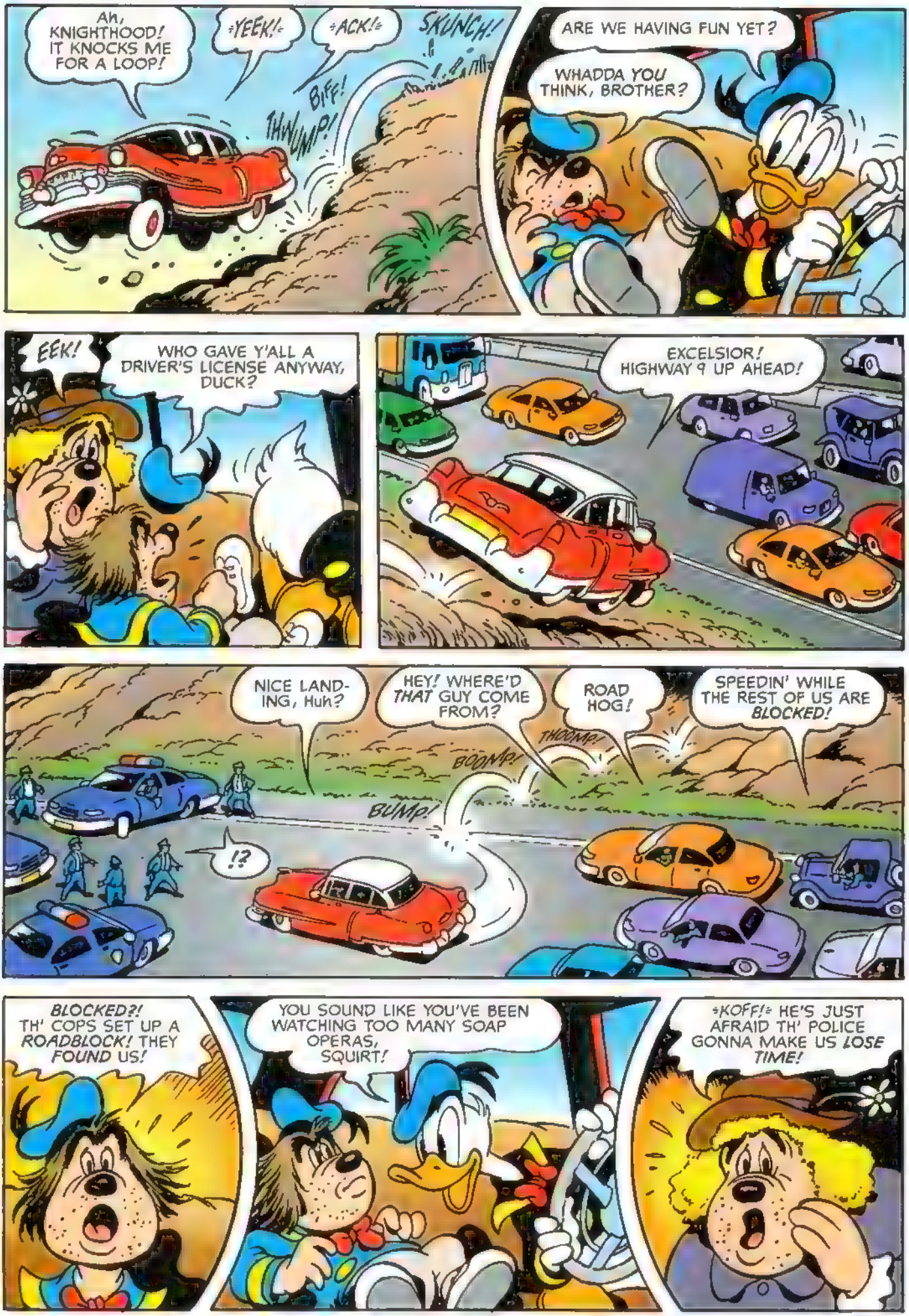


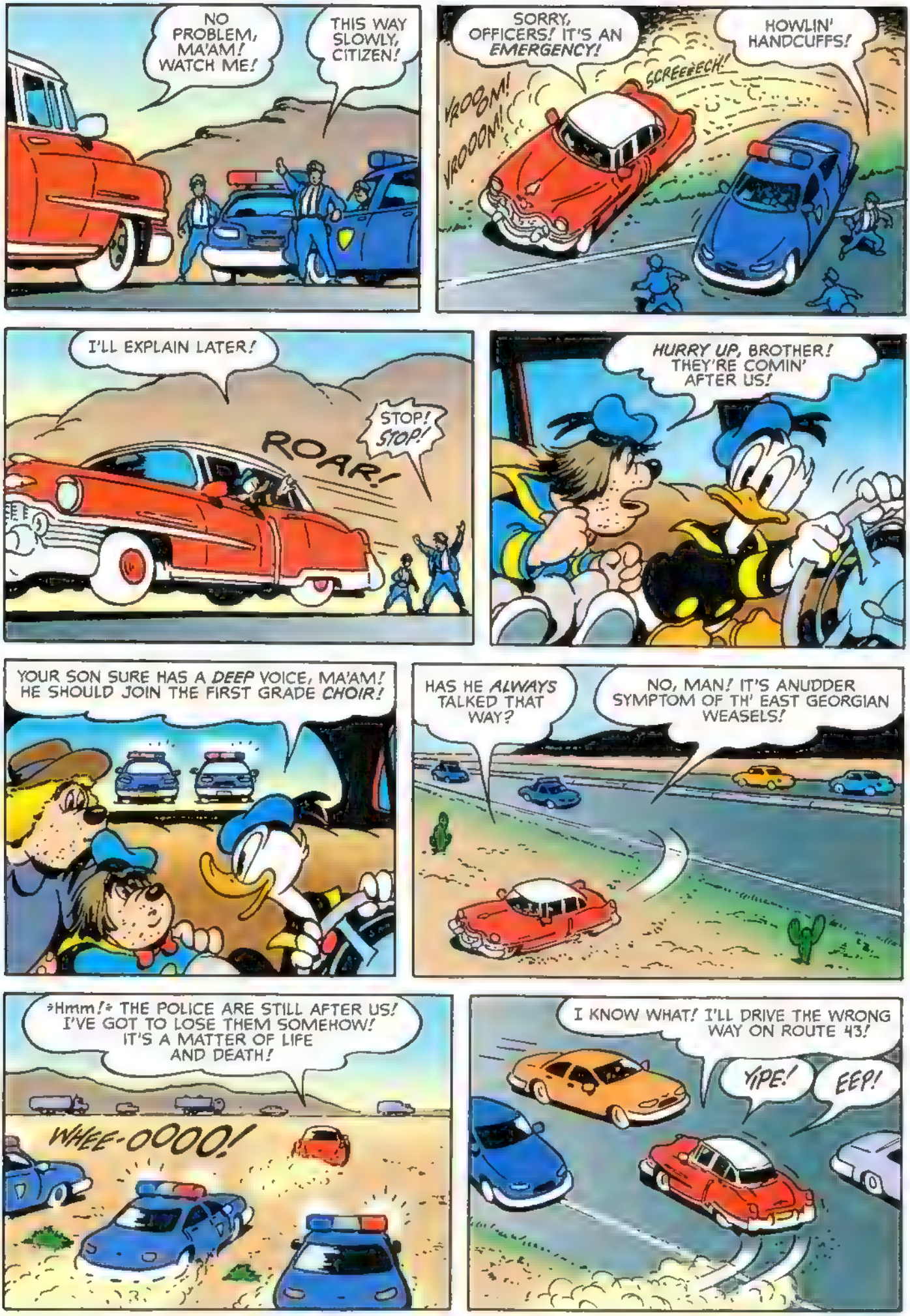
SNORT! BE MORE CARE-FUL WHEN YOU CLEAN!
YESSIR! I'M SORRY, SIR! IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, SIR!
CAR WASHING— FIDDLESTICKS! THAT A DUCK AT MY LEVEL OF TALENT SHOULD STOOP SO LOW!
FWHEET!
AH! LUNCHTIME!
I'LL CHOW DOWN OVER THIS BOOK THE BOYS GOT ME FOR MY BIRTHDAY!
ALL ABOUT MEDIEVAL KNIGHTS' DARING DEEDS! GREAT STUFF! GREAT STUFF!
TRULY NOBLE MEN THEY WERE! BRAVE, BOLD DEFENDERS OF THE WEAK!
I'D HAVE BEEN A KNIGHT WERE I BORN IN THOSE DAYS! A DASHING HERO WITH A BLAZING SWORD! A—
HEY! SIR WASHALOT!
THROW ON YOUR ARMOR, GET ON YOUR HORSE, AND GALLOP OVER TO THE BOSS' OFFICE!
HE CRAVES A WORD WITH YOU!
!?

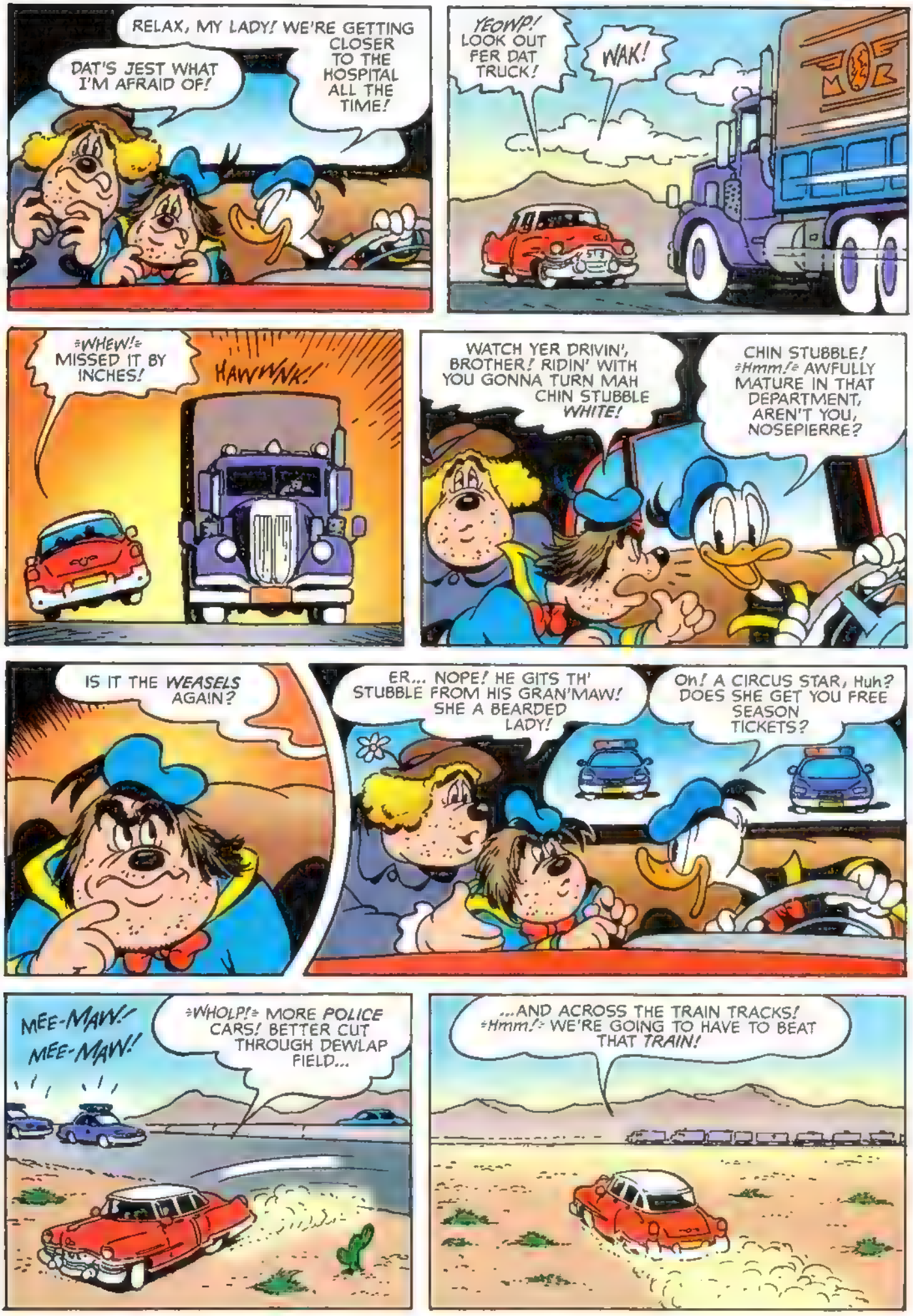

ANON!
SO I'M TO SCHLEP THIS '57 PRIVY TO OUR SISTER LOT IN GOOSETOWN!
UNCLE SCROOGE TOLD THE BOSS TO GIVE ME THE ASSIGNMENT! I GUESS I SHOULD BE FLATTERED!
BUT WHILE IT BEATS SCRUBBING EXHAUST PIPES, IT'S NOT A TASK BEFITTING KNIGHTHOOD'S STORIED TRADITIONS!
HMPH! THIS DOGGONED TRAFFIC JAM GIVES ME THE JITTERS! BETTER FIND ANOTHER ROUTE!
HERE'S SWANSDOWN WAY! IT'S LONGER, BUT I CAN RELAX AND WATCH THE SCENERY GO BY!
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO TRAVEL— *WAK!* WHAT THE DING-DONG BLAZES?
!?
HALP! HAALP!
MAH LI'L NOSEPIERRE'S TERRIBOBBLE SICK! CAN Y'ALL DRIVE US TO TH' GOOSETOWN HOSPITAL SPEEDY-LIKE?

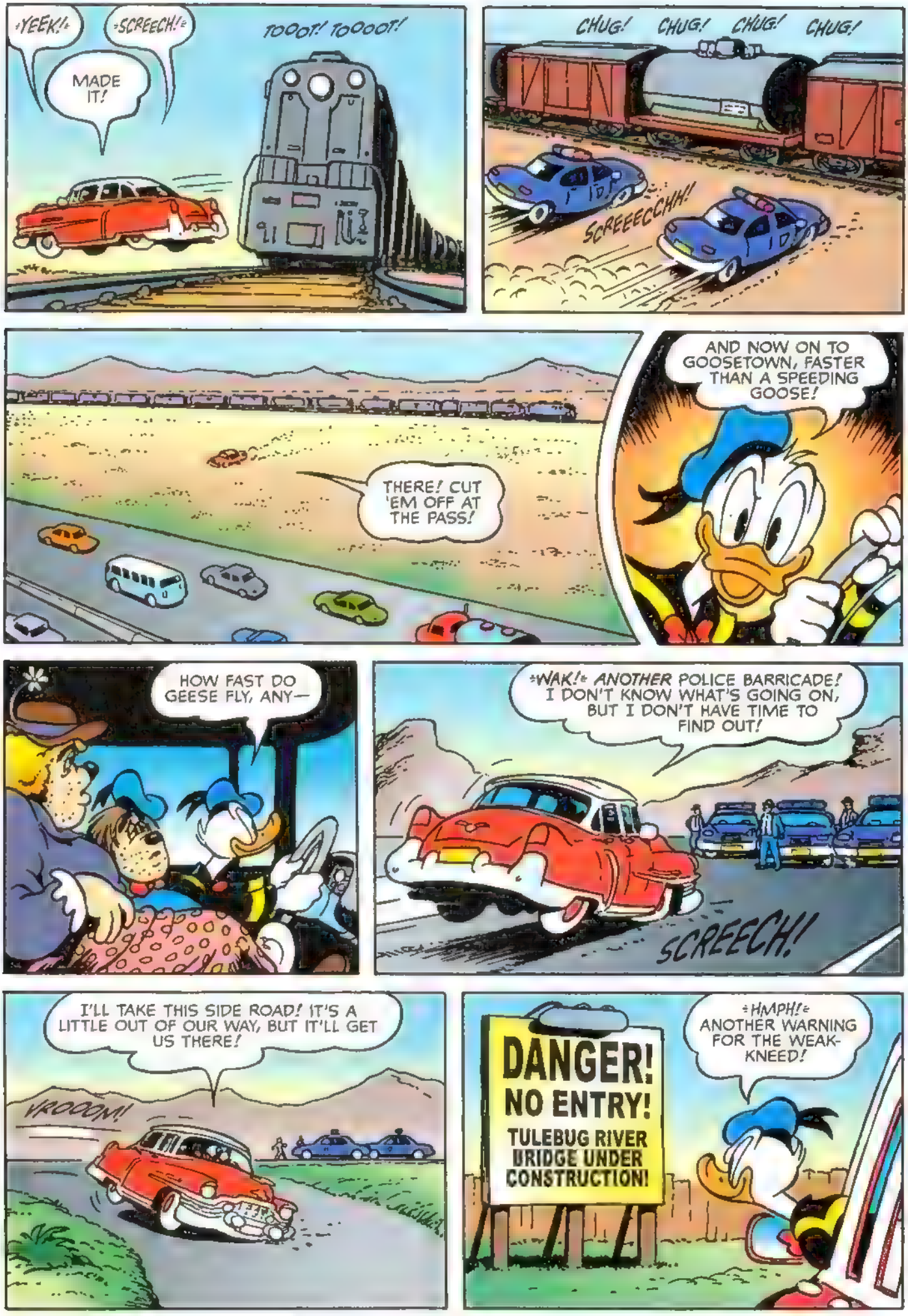
HE DOESN'T LOOK SICK! HE RAN OVER HERE AT A MILE A MINUTE...
HAW! A MAN NEVER LOOK SICK WHEN HE GOT EAST GEORGIAN WEASELS! BUT DAT ONLY PROVES HE NEED MEDICINE ALL TH' MORE!
HELP US GIT THERE, BOY! A SECOND'S DELAY COULD BE UTTER DEE-BILITATIN'!
I PRAY THEE, O KNIGHT! WE MUST HASTEN! WE MUST NOT LET ANY-THING HINDER US!
FEAR NOT, MY LADY! I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE GOOSETOWN CAR LO— I MEAN, HOSPITAL! YOUR SON SHALL RISE AGAIN!
NAUGHT HALTS THE HEROISM OF... WHAT'D HE CALL ME?... SIR WASHALOT!
VROOOOOM!
NO ROAD TOO LONG! NO FIELD TOO BUMPY!
THUMP!
BOOMP!
AND SHOULD MY STEED BREAK DOWN, NOSEPIERRE, I'LL CARRY YOU ON FOOT! EVEN IF THE JOURNEY IS A FORTY-MILE SLOG!

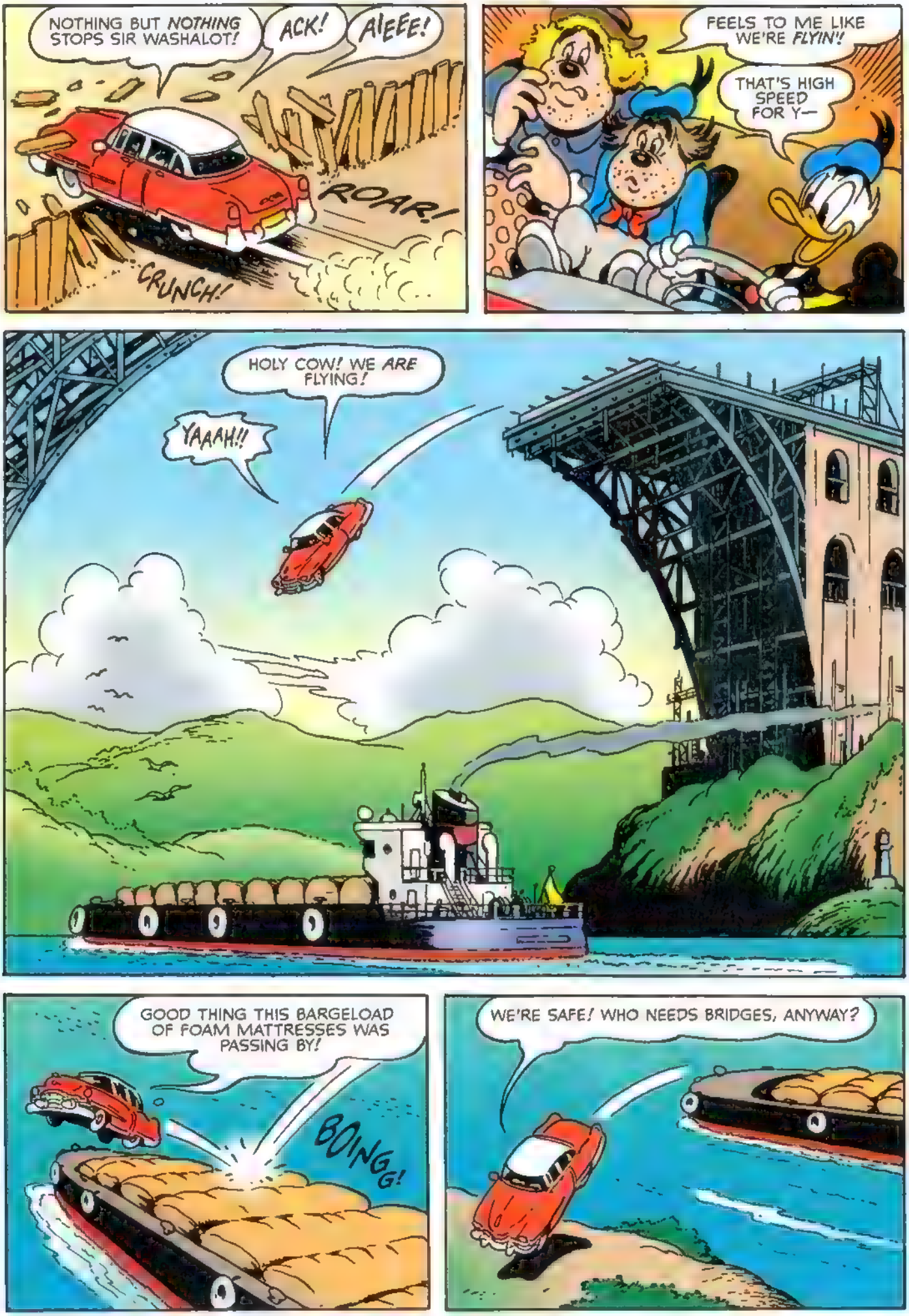
THIS HILL LEADS DOWN TO HIGHWAY 18! LOOKS LIKE HEAVY TRAFFIC AGAIN!
=YEOWLP!= THANKS FOR TH' HEADS-UP...
BOUNCE!
...BUT BE KEERFUL, BOY! ONLY ONE OF US S'POSED TO NEED TH' DOCTOR!
FEAR NOT, MY LADY! 'TIS A TRIFLE FOR ME TO CONDUCT THIS MIGHTY STEED!
SOME FUN, Eh, KID?
=GASP!= SURE ENOUGH!
DOGGONE! THIS IS BUMPER-TO-BUMPER! TIME FOR ANOTHER SHORTCUT!
SCREEEECH!
DANGER!
ROAD OUT!
NO ENTRY!
NO ENTRY, Eh? SIGNS DON'T STOP SIR WASHALOT!
FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS! WE'RE TAKING OFF!
=GASP!=
EEP!
GRUNCH!


Ah, KNIGHTHOOD! IT KNOCKS ME FOR A LOOP!
=YEEK!=
=ACK!=
SKUNCH!
BIFF!
THWUMP!
ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?
WHADDA YOU THINK, BROTHER?
EEK!
WHO GAVE Y'ALL A DRIVER'S LICENSE ANYWAY, DUCK?
EXCELSIOR! HIGHWAY 9 UP AHEAD!
NICE LAND-ING, Huh?
HEY! WHERE'D THAT GUY COME FROM?
ROAD HOG!
SPEEDIN' WHILE THE REST OF US ARE BLOCKED!
THOOMP!
BOOMP!
BUMP!
!?
BLOCKED?! TH' COPS SET UP A ROADBLOCK! THEY FOUND US!
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING TOO MANY SOAP OPERAS, SQUIRT!
=KOFF!= HE'S JUST AFRAID TH' POLICE GONNA MAKE US LOSE TIME!

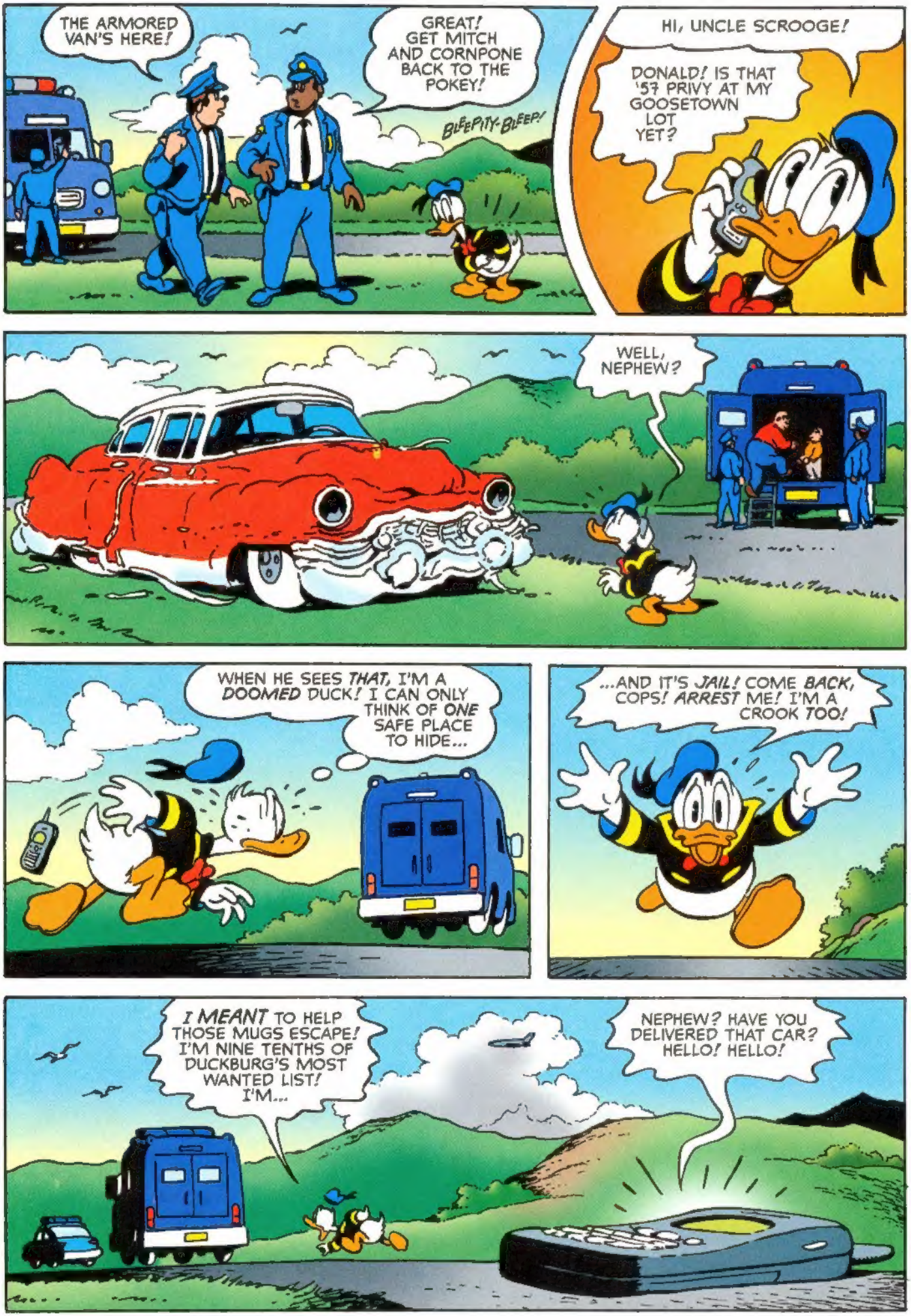

NO PROBLEM, MA'AM! WATCH ME!
THIS WAY SLOWLY, CITIZEN!
SORRY, OFFICERS! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
HOWLIN' HANDCUFFS!
SCREEEECH!
VROOM! VROOOM!
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER!
ROAR!
STOP! STOP!
HURRY UP, BROTHER! THEY'RE COMIN' AFTER US!
YOUR SON SURE HAS A DEEP VOICE, MA'AM! HE SHOULD JOIN THE FIRST GRADE CHOIR!
HAS HE ALWAYS TALKED THAT WAY?
NO, MAN! IT'S ANUDDER SYMPTOM OF TH' EAST GEORGIAN WEASELS!
÷Hmm!÷ THE POLICE ARE STILL AFTER US! I'VE GOT TO LOSE THEM SOMEHOW! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!
WHEE-OOOO!
I KNOW WHAT! I'LL DRIVE THE WRONG WAY ON ROUTE 43!
YIPE!
EEP!


RELAX, MY LADY! WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO THE HOSPITAL ALL THE TIME!
DAT'S JEST WHAT I'M AFRAID OF!
YEOWP! LOOK OUT FER DAT TRUCK!
WAK!
=WHEW!= MISSED IT BY INCHES!
HAWWNK!
WATCH YER DRIVIN', BROTHER! RIDIN' WITH YOU GONNA TURN MAH CHIN STUBBLE WHITE!
CHIN STUBBLE! =Hmm!= AWFULLY MATURE IN THAT DEPARTMENT, AREN'T YOU, NOSEPIERRE?
IS IT THE WEASELS AGAIN?
ER... NOPE! HE GITS TH' STUBBLE FROM HIS GRAN'MAW! SHE A BEARDED LADY!
Oh! A CIRCUS STAR, Huh? DOES SHE GET YOU FREE SEASON TICKETS?
MEE-MAW! MEE-MAW!
=WHOLP!= MORE POLICE CARS! BETTER CUT THROUGH DEWLAP FIELD...
...AND ACROSS THE TRAIN TRACKS! =Hmm!= WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BEAT THAT TRAIN!


YEEK!
SCREECH!
MADE IT!
TOOOT! TOOOOT!
CHUG! CHUG! CHUG! CHUG!
SCREEECCHH!
THERE! CUT 'EM OFF AT THE PASS!
AND NOW ON TO GOOSETOWN, FASTER THAN A SPEEDING GOOSE!
HOW FAST DO GEESE FLY, ANY—
WAK! ANOTHER POLICE BARRICADE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO FIND OUT!
SCREECH!
I'LL TAKE THIS SIDE ROAD! IT'S A LITTLE OUT OF OUR WAY, BUT IT'LL GET US THERE!
VROOM!
DANGER!
NO ENTRY!
TULEBUG RIVER BRIDGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION!
HMPH! ANOTHER WARNING FOR THE WEAK-KNEED!


NOTHING BUT NOTHING STOPS SIR WASHALOT!
ACK!
AIEEE!
ROAR!
CRUNCH!
FEELS TO ME LIKE WE'RE FLYIN'!
THAT'S HIGH SPEED FOR Y—
HOLY COW! WE ARE FLYING!
YAAAH!!
GOOD THING THIS BARGELOAD OF FOAM MATTRESSES WAS PASSING BY!
BOINGG!
WE'RE SAFE! WHO NEEDS BRIDGES, ANYWAY?

THAT DARING JUMP DESERVES A CHAPTER IN MY BOOK OF KNIGHTLY FEATS! SPEAK UP IF YOU DISAGREE! SPEECHLESS, EH? THOUGHT SO!
NEITHER RAIN, NOR SNOW, NOR THIN AIR STAYS SIR WASHALOT FROM HIS CHIVALROUS DUTY!
SCREEECH!
WAK! THE FUZZ AGAIN! THIS IS GETTING MONOTONOUS!
BUT FRET NOT! I'LL FIGURE OUT A WAY AROUND—
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
POLEECE! IT'S US... YO' JAIL-BREAKERS! MACON MITCH AN' CAL CORNPONE!
!?
Y'ALL GOTTA ARREST US! GIT US AWAY FROM DAT CRAZY DUCK!
JAIL'S SO QUIET AN' PEACEFUL-LIKE! WE JES' WANNA GO BACK THERE!
ONE EMBARRASSING EXPLANATION LATER!
...SO YOU WERE ACTUALLY HELPING TWO COSTUMED SAFECRACKERS TAKE IT ON THE LAM!
BUT DON'T WORRY, DUCK! YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE DOING THE RIGHT THING! ANYWAY, YOUR STUNT DRIVING SOFTENED THE PAIR UP FOR EASY CAPTURE!


THE ARMORED VAN'S HERE!
GREAT! GET MITCH AND CORNPONE BACK TO THE POKEY!
BLEEPITY-BLEEP!
HI, UNCLE SCROOGE!
DONALD! IS THAT '57 PRIVY AT MY GOOSETOWN LOT YET?
WELL, NEPHEW?
WHEN HE SEES THAT, I'M A DOOMED DUCK! I CAN ONLY THINK OF ONE SAFE PLACE TO HIDE...
...AND IT'S JAIL! COME BACK, COPS! ARREST ME! I'M A CROOK TOO!
I MEANT TO HELP THOSE MUGS ESCAPE! I'M NINE TENTHS OF DUCKBURG'S MOST WANTED LIST! I'M...
NEPHEW? HAVE YOU DELIVERED THAT CAR? HELLO! HELLO!

In 1940, Donald Duck beckoned us to open and read the first issue of *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* by "turning the cover page" for us. In late 1995, he did the same for issue number 600. Just short of ten years later, decked out in his "Frozen Gold" flying togs, he ushers us into number 654. Now, honestly, is there a more courteous host in all of comics?

And could there be a greater pairing of talents across the generations of Disney comics creators than David Gerstein and the master Romano Scarpa, in this issue's "History Re-Petes Itself"? In his inadvertent regression to babyhood, courtesy of a stolen ray gun, could Pete have unknowingly inspired the "Disney Babies" line of product merchandising? Just his luck, a convicted criminal is not allowed to profit from his crimes.

Oh, well, at least he had a fitting birthday tribute here with "Re-Petes" and the welcome "re-pete" of Carl Barks' "Frozen Gold," where he operated under the guise of "Foxy Pete." If only there were an available William Van Horn duck story with "Pete clone" Woimly Filcher, and maybe a reprint of the Chip 'n' Dale cartoon adaptation where Pete was a western bad guy, to complete the party package. Still, it beats getting a fuzzy sweater two sizes too small and a hideous spotted tie!

—Joe Torcivia
via email

What a great issue! I loved the Daan Jippes cover that was used to illustrate "Frozen Gold." This is the kind of "illustration" cover I've been talking about when an important long story is in the issue. While I am sort of negatively biased on 24-page stories appearing in *WDC&S*, I can't complain when it's a Carl Barks tale that hasn't seen print in 18 years (along with Susan Daigle-Leach's beautiful coloring). This is also one of my favorite Barks adventures; it was clear that even at this early stage, Barks was turning the ducks into his own characters.

William Van Horn offers a hilarious new story with an unexpected twist for the ending. Come on, I can't be the only one who thought the hostess was going to turn out to be Magica DeSpell, can I? Having two Paul Murry vintage stories in a row was interesting, as you can see how his artwork evolved over 12 years (not to mention, the Wolf story was funny too). Surprisingly, the Gus Goose story was genuinely funny, something rare for stories set on Grandma's farm.

David Gerstein and Romano Scarpa's story was wonderful; the excellent writing and expressive and detailed artwork make one heck of a Mickey yarn. I also noticed a few of Pete's pre-Mickey enemies on his bedroom wall as well.

Thanks for producing such an excellent comic!

—Thad Komorowski
via email

I'm 19 years old and I have always loved things Disney, I suppose. (From watching *DuckTales* and the rest of the Disney Afternoon shows when I was very young, to now buying your *WDC&S* and *Uncle Scrooge* comics every month since you guys at Gemstone have started them again and have made them so nice and appealing in every way to read.) Anyway, my little contribution to your comments section (if this makes its way into your comments section) goes a little something like this: why is it that the covers of *Walt Disney's Comics & Stories* always feature Donald Duck? Truth be told, I'm not positive that every one does, but I can vouch for the ones that Gemstone has put out. I just realized this today and I wondered why, because hey, the comic isn't called Donald Duck. The comic has several other stories in it that feature different characters, so why would Donald always be on the cover of the comic? I mean, maybe it's been this way since the beginning, and maybe now it's been kind of a tradition or something, but it just doesn't seem right to me. Well, I really would like to know the answer to this, so I'd appreciate it if you'd print this, for my sanity's sake. Thanks, and please keep doing what you're doing with these comics because they're wonderful.

—Corey Barbush
via email

In the very beginning of WDC&S*—in the early 1940s—Western Publishing did release issues with covers featuring Goofy and even Clarabelle Cow. Western's editors and marketing strategists quickly realized, however, that Donald was the character that really drove sales of the books, so he quickly came to take over the lead feature and the covers. He has been the cover star for probably more than 90 percent of all the editions of* WDC&S *ever published and has, at this point in history, become, as you say, a tradition.*

That said, comics are sold by fan loyalty these days much more than they are by newsstand impulse buys, so perhaps there's not as great a need to depict Donald on every cover. What do the rest of you readers think? Would you like to see more covers starring the other characters?

Letters selected for publication may be edited for length and/or content.
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